Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria, Iraq Sign Agreement on Euphrates Water

JN1804091190 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Syria and Iraq have ratified an accord on sharing the waters of the Euphrates. The agreement came several months after they protested to Turkey over cutting the flow of the vital waterway to fill a joint dam. Syrian legal expert Munib al-Rifa'i said it was a provisional accord on sharing the Euphrates waters at the Syrian-Turkish frontier pending the conclusion of a definite agreement between Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. Ratification documents were exchanged by Al-Rifa'i and Iraq's Ambassador to Tunisia Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says 'No Flexibility' on Jerusalem

JN1704170290 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Apr 90 pp 1, 22

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has revealed that several parties have offered the PLO the establishment of a Palestinian state without Jerusalem.

In a speech lasting more than two hours to about 100 Palestinian businessmen holding their constituent conference in the Tunisian capital, 'Arafat asserted in response to the offer that history might record that he had achieved nothing, and he would then have to resign or become a martyr—"I wish I would become a martyr"—but that history will never write that he agreed to abandon Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

'Arafat added that the parties themselves have asked him to be flexible on forming a Palestinian delegation to an open dialogue with an Israeli delegation, especially regarding the representation of Jerusalem in the first round of talks. He said he insisted that a representative of the holy city take part in the delegation—with the provisions that he was born in the city, is originally from there, and resides in it.

He pointed out that there can be flexibility on the time limit for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops from one year to six months [as published], and on the type of supervision or participation by the United Nations, but there can be no flexibility where the matter concerns Jerusalem.

'Arafat denied that he has offered concessions and pointed out that the crisis suffered by Israeli society was brought about by the PLO's adherence to its declared principles and by the popular intifadah. He noted that everyone was expecting the explosion to occur inside the Palestinian body, but the opposite has happened, and instead unity became stronger and more cohesive both inside and outside the homeland.

He said the differences in viewpoints that come up every now and then mean nothing but real democracy, on whose rock all the factions have broken up. He said he is proud of the fact that he is not leading a herd of sheep, but a people made up of free men who have the highest percentage of education in the Middle East, and which is even higher than that in Israel.

The Palestinian president affirmed that the independent state is a stone's throw away, and that "I am not dreaming, but proceeding from facts." He stressed that in making this statement, he is speaking the truth and not only aiming at raising morale. He also reminded those present of what he said before—that on the day the peace process comes to a standstill, he will convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] to elect another leader and adopt another course, but the intifadah will continue and will escalate.

He reaffirmed that the state is only a stone's throw away and that what he says is not merely an interpretation. He voiced the opinion that the support the PLO is enjoying is quite important, and the state is coming, and that it is only a matter of time. He who exists on the political map will impose his presence on the geographical map as well, 'Arafat said.

In his speech Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] dealt with the PLO's political moves and international relations. He spoke about his recent visits to Paris, Rome, Prague, and the Vatican. He noted that the recent changes in East Europe do not mean the Palestinians have lost the support of the East European countries. He quoted Czechoslovak Federal Assembly Chairman Alexander Dubcek as telling reporters that the Palestinian people's struggle is just, that the two sides share a common struggle for freedom and democracy, and that the PLO can depend on Prague.

'Arafat added that Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel voiced similar remarks when he announced that his country will continue to support the just Palestine issue and the Palestinian peace initiative, indicating that his imminent visit to Israel will not take place by official invitation but on the invitation of the Czechoslovak Jewish community, which will open a cultural center in Tel Aviv. 'Arafat said he asked Havel to visit the West Bank and Gaza and to meet with Palestinian activists and acquaint himself with violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories.

Regarding his visit to the Vatican, the Palestinian president said that during their meeting with Pope John Paul II, the pope said that he supports the Palestinian people's right to an independent homeland just as for the Israelis, indicating that the Vatican has issued a statement to this effect.

Regarding his visit to Italy, he said that all members of Giulio Andreotti's government were on hand to receive him, indicating that Spadolini, Senate president and leader of the Republican Party, said that the PLO should know that it can rely on his party the way it relies on the

entire Italian people. He described this position as a 180-degree change by a politician who was known for his support for Israel and for presiding over the Italian-Jewish Friendship Committee. He added that Spadolini stressed to him that Italy will exert extensive efforts to force Israel to accept the existence of a Palestinian state and an Israeli state on the soil of Palestine.

Abu-'Ammar said it was not a coincidence that his first meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter took place in the Elysee Palace in the presence of French President Francois Mitterrand. He described this development as a message to the world indicating that France agrees at the highest level with what this meeting stands for. He added that his meeting with Carter—whom he described as a man of principle—produced many results. 'Arafat disclosed that the former U.S. president regretted the fact that the Palestinians could not obtain their right to self-determination in the Camp David accords. He quoted Carter as saying that he will devote his life to enabling the Palestinians to obtain a homeland, which they have been deprived of and which they should have obtained in 1979.

While discussing the internal Palestinian situation, 'Arafat did not attempt to conceal some small differences with the Hamas movement. He said that some parties are trying to give these differences prominence in order to create problems similar to what is happening in Lebanon. However, these attempts have been contained, he said.

'Arafat also revealed that the Fatah movement deferred to Hamas when a seat in the PNC became vacant after the martyrdom of leader Khalil al-Wazir, Abu-Jihad. The PLO also gives aid to Hamas, more so than to other factions. It pays the sum of $1,000 to each detainee of this movement, since they are the sons of the PLO. It has also asked the Palestinian Workers' Federation to allocate a seat for them in the leadership despite the fact that they did not succeed in the elections.

However, the Palestinian president warned any elements against thinking that they are capable of becoming an alternative for the PLO. He pointed out that when Hamas hesitated to declare its support for the PNC resolutions, it was rejected by the internal Palestinian camp. He referred to Iranian attempts to win over some elements from the jihad movement to destabilize the Palestinian position.

In a direct reference to Palestinian economic activists taking part in the conference, Abu-'Ammar gave them credit for PLO participation in blazing the trail. He demanded that they work for everything that can make the Palestinian stone victorious over the occupation forces. He said that this stone had caused a split in the Israeli leadership. The Palestinian cause requires the expenditure of economic, political, diplomatic, and mental resources. "The intifadah needs you, and so does the coming Palestinian state," he said.

The Palestinian president explained that the stage has now passed into one of details, which shows that the Palestinians and especially the leadership know where they stand. He urged them not to leave him and the Executive Committee in a confrontational position. He expressed his belief that there must be efforts by all Palestinian activists to prepare for their state, which we are struggling for. These activists are ready to sacrifice all the money they have accumulated for the sake of living on the soil of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nabulus, and the Gaza Strip. He added that the current stage needs the efforts of everyone. He said that if the distance to Jerusalem is estimated at 1,000 miles, then it can be crossed by plane, car, on horseback, or even on foot. He said that the date of reaching the Palestinian capital could be fixed through the means and resources that the Palestinians place at their own disposal. He affirmed that the state has been defined, and that the world has recognized it. He was received by the pope of the Vatican and the Italian and French presidents only because the Palestinian people have insisted on their right to a state, which they are working to achieve. Since the intifadah is the means of achieving this purpose, Abu-'Ammar has asked that an infrastructure be set up. He did not hide the fact that this task, represented by achieving economic, industrial, and agricultural projects that could be used to make the people hold fast to the land, depends on the Palestinian economic activists. He described the responsibility which they and the PLO leadership are entrusted with as a joint responsibility, starting with legal matters and ending with small projects which he said form the infrastructure of the modern Palestinian state. He also revealed that during his recent visit to Japan, he did not ask for material aid, but for training for Palestinian technicians, so that the coming state will be similar to Singapore and South Korea in the Middle East region.

Referring to the Jewish immigration into Palestine, Abu-'Ammar recalled what he said before about calling for an emergency Arab summit whose date will be announced when an Arab capital is willing to host it. He pointed out that the PLO has not kept silent over this serious development, but has asked the UN Security Council to hold an open session to study this subject. He also said the PLO will accept nothing less than a resolution which reponds to its requests. Otherwise, it will ask the UN General Assembly to issue a resolution on the basis of the Uniting for Peace resolution, which has been resorted to only three times since the United Nations was set up—the first in Korea, the second in the Suez, and the third in the Congo, currently Zaire.

The Palestinian president concluded his speech by talking about the PLO's financial status. He said that according to official Israeli statistics, Palestinian losses in the past 24 months reached $2.3 billion, while Israeli losses in the same period reached $5.9 billion. He pointed out that Tel Aviv can find someone to compensate it for its losses, while on the Palestinian side conditions are very difficult.

Abu-'Ammar added that the aid given to the martyrs' families has climbed to $7.2 million a month. He denounced the reports published a few weeks ago to the effect that the PLO has $17 billion, and said that such reports constitute an attempt to block any Arab or foreign aid to the Palestinians and an acceptance of U.S. pressures, which try to deplete the PLO's financial resources, as was stated by Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to West Germany.

However, 'Arafat emphasized a decision adopted by the Palestinian leadership to the effect that there will be no ceiling on support to the intifadah, even if one has to go to China, Vietnam, and the African states. He praised the Arab states that contribute a small part of their funds to the Palestinian child, who faces the Israeli gun and tank with the stone.

'Arafat said that since the beginning of the intifadah—which he said will lead to the independent Palestinian state—1,100 people have been martyred, 57,000 wounded, 68,000 arrested, not counting those convicted for long prison sentences in Israeli jails, and 560 disabled. He also said that fruit-bearing trees in fields of tens of thousands of hectares have been uprooted, and hundreds of houses demolished because a child in a house hurled a stone at an Israeli patrol.

'Arafat Urges Readiness for 'Zionist Aggression'

JN1404202090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stressed that the threats made recently by the Zionist enemy against fraternal Iraq are serious ones that are directed against Arab national security.

In a press interview published in London yesterday, Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar said the Zionist enemy is practicing in the Negev Desert on targets similar to certain Iraqi installations. Brother leader president Abu-'Ammar urged the Arab states to be ready to face any possible Zionist aggression.

'Arafat Receives Message From Hafiz Al-Asad

JN1704134490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yasir 'Arafat received an oral message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in reply to the letter delivered by Umm-Jihad, Intisar al-Wazir, widow of Khalil al-Wazir, during a visit she paid to Damascus. Umm-Jihad, who returned to Amman yesterday, explained that the reply message deals with Arab solidarity and the normalization of relations between Syria and the PLO. She added that the Syrian officials welcome a PLO delegation, or a visit by 'Arafat himself at any time he wishes.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Attacks 'Arafat, Emigration

JN1704125590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Speech by Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of the PFLP-GC, in al-Yarmuk Camp, Damascus, on 13 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Allow me to talk to you today about our front. Following the October War, signs of the Arabs' going astray began to appear, led by the buried traitor President al-Sadat. We began to smell the stench and treason immediately after the war. We in the PFLP-GC decided to escalate the military struggle alone, by which we told both enemies and friends that Palestine is our land from the sea to the river, and from north to south.

It was in 1947, on a day like today. The epic was in el-Khalisa, which they call Qiryat Shemona. How can we describe the epic? Brothers and sisters: It is not easy for any leader to say to his soldiers or comrades: Go, and you will never return. You don't stand a chance of surviving. You will put an end to your own lives after the epic. This is the medal of honor pinned to your chests. [passage omitted]

The epic ended, and the Israeli enemy was forced to confess: We did not kill them; when their ammunition ran out, they killed themselves to avoid being captured by the enemy.

Brothers: Following the Israeli enemy's invasion in 1982, 'Arafat said that military struggle had ended, and that we had only the negotiation table left. Then he sent the fighters away and dispersed them to all parts of the world—Algeria, Sudan, the two Yemens, and Tunisia. Despite being under siege in Beirut, we in the PFLP-GC opposed this conspiracy. Finally, we were forced to leave Beirut, because we had no other choice but to fight with 'Arafat while the Israeli enemy besieged Beirut. We said: It is difficult for our nation to know what is going on. We feared that history might do us an injustice. We said to 'Arafat: Yes, we were defeated in this battle; but, we did not opt for war. We said to him: We must return to the place that sheltered us since 1956—the land of heroic Syria. He rejected this, and insisted on putting up a show and left for Greece, sending the fighters away from the battlefield. This is what the United States and Philip Habib had asked him to do. This is what the Arab reactionary rulers asked him to do. We came back to dignified Damascus and said: We in the PFLP-GC have lost the battle, but not the war. We must mobilize Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic energies to face the new invasion of the land of Lebanon. The Lebanese regime managed at that time, with the help of the United States, to conclude an agreement of submission and humiliation—the 17 May agreement. 'Arafat supported and encouraged this agreement. With all due modesty, we say—and this is known to the Israeli enemy and to Arab regimes, with their reactionaries and progressives—that

the front played a distinguished part in rejecting the June defeat. We moved to Lebanon to exact our toll against the Zionist invasion and the NATO forces that came to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

We say, with due modesty, that Arab rulers wanted to hold a summit in Amman. This summit was held in Amman in 1987. What did the Arab rulers say in Amman? They said the conflict of our nation with the Israelis and the Zionists is a dispute. You know the difference between a conflict and a dispute. A dispute is something that happens between neighbors; a conflict is a fight for existence. The Arab leaders in Amman asserted that the conflict with Zionism and Israel was over and that there was now a dispute, which would end soon. They told the Arab nation that the real conflict was with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the eastern border of the Arab nation. The conflict is there. Your armies, funds, and ammunition, therefore, should be sent there. Why? Is it because the Islamic Republic said: Today Tehran; tomorrow, Jerusalem? Is it because this Republic closed the Israeli Embassy of the shah of Iran and established the first Palestinian embassy in its place, and, therefore, should be punished? [passage omitted]

'Arafat's policies and moves are based on defeat and surrender to our enemies. However, we state proudly that for 31 years our front has adhered to the six principles declared in 1959, in our programs, behavior, and conduct. We challenge anyone to say that we have bargained over one inch of Palestinian land. As my brother Abu-Musa said: What is unity if it is a unity of treason and bargaining? Do you want us to unite and go to Israel to commit betrayal, to endorse Resolutions No. 181 and 242, and to recognize 80 percent of the land of Palestine as Israeli property? Who authorized 'Arafat? Can 'Arafat and his followers gather groups of mercenaries willing to sell their conscience, honor, and morality in the Palais des Pins and say: We have met and decided to relinquish 80 percent of the land of Palestine? [passage omitted]

'Arafat is threatening to resign. Whom is he threatening? Tell the Americans, the Israelis, and Husni Mubarak that you are going to resign. Tell them that if you do not respond to my demands, I will resign and leave you with the radicals and extremists. I want to ask you, brothers: Are we radicals? What did we do? Do you know why they call us radicals? Because we are talking about the right to return. The Palestinian who was expelled from his land in 1948 must come back to his homeland. That is why we are terrorists and extremists in the minds of many Arab rulers and, regrettably, many, if not all, rulers of the world. Why? Because we are talking about the right to return. I left Palestine when I was 10 years old and became part of the diaspora, and I have been working for 30 years for the right to return. I am a terrorist, a radical listed on Interpol and the wanted [preceding word in English] lists throughout the world, whereas a Soviet Jew who has lived in the Soviet Union all his life has the right to return. This Soviet citizen, moreover, played a major role—the Soviet Jews played a role—in the Bolshevik-Leninist Revolution. They played a major role in the revenge against, and execution of the tsar in retaliation for the Jews' tragedies. Do they not like this Soviet-Roman state that does not discriminate among religions and nationalities? Are they truly oppressed there? [passage omitted]

Millions of Jews are being transferred under the right of repatriation. Bush has made two statements in 15 days. One was in a news conference attended by some Jews in which he expressed pleasure and said to them: I congratulate you on the second exodus. Do you know what this second exodus is? According to the Torah, they consider the first exodus to be when the Israelites left Egypt with Moses. Imagine that Bush, leader of the world's preeminent superpower, is congratulating the Jews on the second exodus in fulfillment of Torah prophecies concerning the Promised Land from the Nile to the Euphrates. In his second statement, Bush said to them: I bless your return to your land and your freedom.

I am forty years old. If I ever think of Yafo and my village, then I am a terrorist and a radical who should be hounded everywhere, while those others are transferred in luxury along with their furniture! The United States, out of humanitarian concern, is providing $400 million to house those Jews.

From the beginning of this century and up to this moment, we have said and still say to our nation: This people will continue their sacrifices, one generation after another, until the downfall of the imperialistic, Zionist invasion, and I declare it a revolution until the liberation of man and land.

Milhim on Defining Confederation With Jordan

JN1804075490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 90 p 3

[By Samir al-Hiyari and 'Isam Qadamani—"Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in Amman Tuesday that a working paper submitted by the PLO to the Jordanian government on future relations explicitly defines the form of confederation between Palestine and Jordan.

"The working paper deals with such questions as passports and citizenship of Palestinians living in Jordan and other aspects of political, economic and social relations between the two sides," according to Muhammad Milhim, member of the PLO's executive committee.

Milhim said that the working paper will be discussed by His Majesty King Husayn and Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat during the latter's current visit to Jordan.

"'Arafat's visit is considered the most significant so far and his talks with King Husayn are of paramount importance in view of the issues on the agenda and in the light

of the present conditions in the Arab World," Milhim said in a statement to AL-RA'Y and JORDAN TIMES dailies.

Milhim, who is also director of the PLO's Department of Higher Education, said that the meeting between the two leaders is important, coming in the wake of the downfall of the Israeli coalition government and in the light of the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine as well as political developments in the Arab World, especially Israel's open threats to Arab states.

"The working paper in question discusses the form of government in a confederate state, joint institutions and other related topics," Milhim added.

The two leaders' meeting will lay the foundation stone and the main principles for future relations between Palestine and Jordan, Milhim said.

In reply to a question, Milhim warned the Arabs against failure to build up a joint Arab front against Israel.

"There is no alternative to a solid front grouping Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Egypt to confront Israel's conspiracies and to pre-empt an Israeli military strike on Iraq and other frontline states," Milhim pointed out.

"There is dire need for bolstering the defences of the frontline states confronting Israel including Iraq which is now considered as a frontline state," Milhim added.

Referring to Palestinian-Syrian relations, Milhim said they were on their way for improvement in the wake of a visit to Damascus by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, and following a visit to Syria by the wife of the late PLO leader Khalil al-Wazir.

Milhim defended the PLO's call for a peaceful solution and said the PLO made the bid from a position of strength based on the intifadah inside the occupied Palestinian lands.

He said that no peace can be achieved without negotiations.

The question of a confederate state was raised Saturday by the PLO official Mahmud 'Abbas and 'Abdallah Hurani at a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. 'Abbas and Hurani arrived here last week to prepare the way for 'Arafat's visit to Jordan.

Palestinian Delegation Set for Moscow Dialogue

LD1704091190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kuwait, April 17 (KUNA)—A Palestine diplomat says a Palestinian-Soviet Jews dialogue will be conducted on Thursday and Friday in the Soviet capital, where mediamen and politicians from both sides will participate.

Ambassador Nabil Amore, speaking exclusively to Kuwaiti daily Al-ANBA' published here Tuesday, described the dialogue as an attempt to "listen and let others listen away from empty slogans and emotions."

"It is not in the interest of the Palestinian cause to leave the Soviet Jews targets for the Zionist media and political propagandas as long as positive cooperation with specific sector of them is [words indistinct] the ambassador stressed. He added although a big number of Soviet Jews have fallen under the Zionist influence and dream in settling in occupied Palestine, "we got to speak to their (the Soviet Jews) minds and talk peace instead of the concept of war which the Israeli leaders are trying to exploit in converting those Jews into a fuel for endless wars."

Amore said the Palestinian delegation will be headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and will group, besides himself, member of the Democratic Front Central Committee Mamdoh Nofel, Taysir Aruri from the Palestinian Communist Party, Murae Abdul Rahman from Fatah movement as well as Marwan Kanafani, a Palestinian living in the U.S. The Soviet Jews delegation to the dialogue will be composed of a parliamentarian, authors, a theater director, journalists, writers and a rabbi.

Palestinian, U.S. Envoy's Meeting Reported

LD1404050490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Concerning the Palestinian issue, we note the meeting last Thursday evening between Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative to Tunis, and Mr. Robert Pelletreau, Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Tunis. WAFA said yesterday that the meeting dealt with the latest developments related to the peace process and international efforts to push it forward and to remove the obstacles in its way.

WAFA added that Mr. Bal'awi reiterated to the U.S. ambassador the PLO's firm stance and endeavors to establish a just peace which will fulfill the national rights of the Palestinian people. He also reiterated the official Palestinian stance concerning the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a preparatory step toward convening an international peace conference.

WAFA said that the meeting also dealt with last week's meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Washington.

PLO Denies Report on French Hostage 'Deal'

LD1404183790 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] A PLO information source has made the following statement: THE NEW YORK TIMES cited its correspondent Yusif Ibrahim quoting a Palestinian source as saying that the release of the French hostages was a French-Libyan deal with a specific price tag. We would

like to stress that any official or semi-official Palestinian source in Beirut or anywhere else assumes official status by publishing through the Palestine news agency, WAFA. And since that did not take place, what was reported by the NEW YORK TIMES correspondent is pure fabrication and an attempt to harm Libyan-Palestinian relations. The correspondent should have revealed the name of the source so that there would be no suspicions that would brand him with fabrication and falsification.

Islamic Jihad Guide Issues Call for Violence

NC1504073890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi, spiritual guide of the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine, has appealed to the Muslim Palestinian people in AL-NAFIR magazine, the Jerusalem-based magazine of Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis. The appeal reads: Dear people of Palestine, all our people in the blessed land—youth, women, and men of Palestine—the Jews are eroding politically, militarily, economically, and spiritually. The longer you patiently persist in your land, the further their self-confidence will be shaken.

The appeal adds: Honorable people of our Islamic nation, all the proposed solutions will fail because it is the destiny of the Jews to reject them until the final solution comes, when the stones and the trees will speak, saying: O Muslim, slave of God, behold there is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him.

On sons of the blessed land of Palestine, burn everything that you can touch—burn vehicles, shops, and factories and take of their money what you want. There is no sanctity for a Jew's money or blood. Kill them where you (?find) them and expel them from where they have expelled you.

Shaykh al-Tamimi concluded his appeal by saying: Terrorize the new Russian immigrants. You can see how the infidels are uniting against us in capitalist America and communist Russia and countries situated between the two.

My sons and heroic brothers in the enemies' prisons and all areas of struggle, a covenant is a covenant. I promise you victory.

Czechoslovak Reportage on 'Arafat Visit

WA1204184090

For Czechoslovak media reportage on the visit by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to Czechoslovakia, please see the Czechoslovakia section of the 12 April East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC 'Strongly Committed' to $18 Reference Price

LD1204180690 Vienna OPECNA in English 1701 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Vienna, 12 Apr. 90 (OPECNA)—OPEC is still strongly committed to its declared reference price of $18 per barrel, despite the recent decline in the market. It has every intention of defending it.

Sources at the organization's Secretariat said today that OPEC was determined to ensure an equilibrium between supply and demand in order to stabilize the market, a development which would have a positive effect on oil prices.

Earlier, OPEC conference president, Algerian Mines Minister Sadek Boussena, said in a statement issued from Algiers that following the latest developments in the oil market, intensive consultations had been conducted between OPEC ministers with a view to taking necessary corrective steps to arrest the present slide and reverse the (downward) trend. He said "various options" were being considered, including an urgent meeting of the eight-member ministerial market monitoring committee and an extraordinary OPEC conference.

OPEC ministers are scheduled to meet for their regular mid-year conference on 25 May.

The OPEC president said that in his discussions with his colleagues, he had noted with satisfaction that there continued to be a clear commitment to the minimum reference price of $18 per barrel and a willingness to act responsibly to safeguard the stability of the market and restore prices to the agreed level.

Saudi, Kuwaiti, UAE Ministers Discuss Quotas

LD1704232390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Apr (SPA)—Their excellencies the oil ministers—Hisham Nazir from the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia), Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah from Kuwait, Dr. Mani' Bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah from the United Arab Emirates [UAE]—held a meeting in Jeddah tonight to discuss the current situation in the oil markets in the framework of the consultations taking place between the OPEC member-states. At the end of the meeting, the three oil ministers issued the following statement:

The oil ministers in the UAE, Kuwait, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held a meeting in Jeddah to review the current situation in the oil market. The ministers expressed their great concern over the latest developments affecting the market and discussed in length the causes behind the fall in prices. The ministers believe that what is happening now is only the result of the

increase in production by the OPEC and non-OPEC states. The ministers also believe that the solution which can achieve a relative stability in the market is that the OPEC member-states should abide by the production ceiling, including the quotas for member-states, and that the non-OPEC countries should commit themselves not to increase their output by taking advantage of a price rise in the seasons during which demand increases.

The three ministers will continue their consultations with their other colleagues in the organization on a continuous basis for the sake of coordination and for the restoration of stability in the market.

Algerian-Libyan Communique on Oil Quotas, Price

LD1704110190 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 17/4/90 (APS)—Following perturbations that happened recently on the international oil market, contacts were held between the Libyan secretary of the people's committee in charge of oil, Fawsi al-Shakshuki, and the Algerian minister of mines, an Algerian-Libyan press communique issued Monday declared.

The two ministers, the communique added, examined the critical situation of the oil market and the deterioration of the oil prices whose cause mainly lies in the non-respect by some member countries of the committments which they made during the latest meeting of OPEC in Vienna.

The two ministers also examined actions likely to remedy such a situation. They agreed in this context to intensify contacts with member states in order to assess the prejudices that may be caused to the organization. They called for the respect of production quotas and the production ceiling of 22 million barrels per day. They also reitereated their determination to take all the appropriate measures to defend the $18 reference price of oil and expressed the readiness of their country to attend any immediate meeting convened by the organization. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Socialist Forces Front's Ait Ahmed on Strife

LD1704152190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpts] We will have to follow very carefully what is happening in Algeria. Why? Because yesterday the Islamic Salvation Front, in other words the fundamentalists, announced an important march to the presidential palace in Algiers on 20 April. They are demanding the dissolution of the Algerian parliament. This was the immediate response from the FLN [National Liberation Front], which is in power: If the fundamentalists demonstrate, we will counterdemonstrate. The mosques must stay outside all political problems. [passage omitted]

We had Ait Ahmed on the telephone a few minutes ago. He is one of the former traditional leaders of the FLN, who has returned to Algeria after more than 20 years in exile and has resumed his political activities at the head of the Socialist Forces Front. Let's listen to him:

[Begin Ahmed recording] The current political situation is indeed marked by a real upsurge of intolerance. [passage omitted] This is happening with the tolerance, or even compliance, of the state machinery, because there is parallel police machinery which (?often acts in daytime). So we are asking the state to do its duty and to safeguard the security of the men and women of this country.

This extremist phenomenon is completely artificial. It is a result of the political vacuum left by more than 25 years of dictatorship, [word indistinct] currently a policy of tolerance. There is some manipulation going on. If we were given real chances, especially as far as the news is concerned, this phenomenon would be reduced in a few months, and Algeria would have consolidated the most important thing—civil peace—and we could really join in what has happened in the East European countries, that's to say, the sole parties, and the political police, will give power up to the people. [end recording]

Islamic Salvation Front Presents Petition

LD1804092390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The national radio received this afternoon a statement from the Islamic Salvation Front signed by Mr. Ali Belhadj on behalf of the Front's national executive bureau. In this statement, the Islamic Salvation Front stresses its determination to stage a march after Friday prayers to present a petition on the latest issues which concern the Algerian people. The Islamic Salvation Front did not however specify these issues.

Egypt

Mubarak Cables Syria's Al-Asad on Evacuation Day

NC1604152290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Cable of congratulations from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of Syria's Evacuation Day; date of message not given]

[Text] I am very pleased to be able to take the opportunity of the celebration of Evacuation Day to convey to Your Excellency and through you to the fraternal Syrian people my deepest heartfelt greetings on this glorious occasion. I pray that God Almighty protect and guide you so your fraternal people can achieve all their aspirations in building, prosperity, and progress.

Council of Ministers Approves Public Sector Plan

JN1704161890 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 14 Apr 90 p 1

[By Muhammad 'Umar]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has declared the reform plan for the public sector and its companies has been unanimously approved by the Council of Ministers. The plan provides for selling some of the public sector's companies, some projects in governorates, and some of companies' shares. The plan also provides for encouraging individuals to contribute toward increasing the capital of some companies and for utilizing the private finances in developing the companies which need major financing. The plan has been under discussion by competent ministerial groups for the past six months.

The plan aims to increase the capabilities and efficiency of economic projects, increasing workers' income and the services offered to them, providing more commodities to citizens, offering them a better living, and increasing job opportunities.

The core of reform rests on securing the independence of management from the government so as to enable them to implement their programs of increasing production. However, managements will be positively or negatively judged by the results, and the market laws will be applicable to all economic units.

To provide the money needed by the infrastructure and the process of modernizing and expanding production units, the plan focuses on the following major points:

—Hotels, housing, and land reclamation companies should sell their properties according to a specific timetable that achieves the highest possible income, provided these companies use the income in setting new hotels, developing tourist areas, and building new cities which in turn will be offered for sale.

—Economic projects in governorates should be sold to individuals to ease the state burdens, especially since these projects receive continuous support from the

state and only a limited number of people benefit from them. A portion of the revenues will be used to pay the debts of these projects. Another portion will be used in developing and modernizing the infrastructure to establish new projects and grant loans to individuals to establish small projects.

—The shares of public sector companies in mixed projects will be sold. This is to support their capabilities, modernize their equipment, enhance their production, and create additional job opportunities for young people.

—Private money should be utilized in developing the companies which need big financing. This will be through increasing the capitals of these companies by individuals, provided priority be given to the employees of these companies and to the private sector that have participated in them since 1961.

—Individuals should be encouraged to contribute toward increasing the capital of the existing public sector companies, including the foreign trade and domestic trade companies, such as the 'Umar Effendy, al-Salon al-Akhdar, and clothing and soft drinks companies, as well as other companies. This will contribute toward increasing production, profits, and job opportunities.

The reform plan aims at increasing competition through increasing production, stabilizing and standardizing the market laws, mobilizing the largest amounts of national finances to contribute toward increasing economic activity, production, and job opportunities, and enhancing efficiency by following a unified management policy that gives sufficient authority to managers and provides for holding them accountable for the results.

Free Zone To Be Established With Libya

JN1704202690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Apr 90 p 1

[By Mahmud Sadiq]

[Text] Marsa Matruh—A decision has been made to establish a free zone between Marsa Matruh Governorate and Libya's Tubruq Municipality after a joint study on the area is made.

Major General Kamal Mansur, Marsa Matruh governor, and 'Umar Rashwan, Tubruq governor, have decided the free zone will start at the city of al-Sallum in Egypt and the city of Musa'id in Libya, in order to boost economic activity between the two countries.

Swedish Foreign Minister Meets With Counterpart

NC1704122690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1213 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Official Egyptian-Swedish talks opened at noon today, led by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson, who arrived in Cairo yesterday evening on a one-day visit.

The conferees reviewed recent developments in the Middle East peace issue in light of the efforts exerted to bring about a comprehensive peace and Sweden's mediation on holding the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. They also discussed ways to promote relations between Egypt and Sweden.

The Swedish guest is scheduled to leave Cairo for Tunis this evening.

Andersson on Immigration, Peace

NC1704144790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson has said his country denounces the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. He asserted this is a "process which contravenes international law and obstructs the efforts to establish peace and security in the Middle East."

Andersson was speaking after conducting two hours of talks today with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Swedish foreign minister praised Egypt's efforts to promote the Middle East peace process and said Egypt's and Sweden's views are "in complete agreement" regarding efforts to give impetus to the peace process. He expressed hope these efforts will continue.

Asked whether he will convey the results of his talks with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to the Israelis, the Swedish foreign minister said even if he planned to do so, his official response to such a question would be negative.

Andersson explained that as a neutral country, Sweden tries to play an effective role in promoting peace whenever it is asked to do so. He added there is much Sweden can do before a new Israeli government is formed. He pointed out his country is waiting to see what new developments there will be in Israel.

Andersson is due to leave Cairo for Tunis later today as part of his current tour of the region.

Swede Ends Visit

NC1704184390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson left Cairo this evening after an official one-day visit to Egypt during which he held talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The talks dealt with current efforts to promote the Middle East peace process, the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories, and ways of bolstering bilateral ties.

Group Threatens Cairo Hotel Over Soviet Jews

NC1704163990 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, April 17 (AFP)—A previously unknown group has threatened to set fire to the Nile Hilton hotel here if it continues to accommodate Soviet Jews on their way to Israel, court sources said Tuesday.

"The hotel will suffer the same fate as the Sheraton-Heliopolis if it continues to take in groups of Soviet Jews in transit for Israel," the Egyptian Organization to Free the Homeland from the Zionist Stain warned in a letter posted from Egypt last week to the hotel director.

Seventeen people perished when the Sheraton-Heliopolis north of here went up in flames March 1. Investigators later ruled that the fire had been accidentally caused.

The group in its warning to the Hilton, located in the heart of Cairo on the banks of the Nile, gave hotel authorities 15 days to comply with their directive.

PLO Envoy Welcomes Dole Statement on Jerusalem

NC1704135090 Cairo MENA in English 1307 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, April 17 (MENA)—Palestinian ambassador here Sa'id Kamal welcomed the statements of U.S. Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minitory in the U.S. Senate.

Dole said the U.S. Congress made a mistake when it adopted a resolution considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

In statements to the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) Kamal expressed the hope that Dole would not be pressured by the Zionist lobby to change this stance.

As premier of the Israeli interim government Yitzhaq Shamir purposely escalates measures against the Palestinian intifadah, the ambassador said, indicating that this gesture paved the way for Jewish settlers and extremists to desecrate Christian and Muslim sanctities.

He urged the U.S. to reconsider its stance vis-a-vis the 1978 UN resolution which equates Zionism with racism. The U.S. currently calls for the cancellation of this resolution.

Tunisia

Chamber Assails Senate Decision on Jerusalem

LD1704144590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The correspondent of the news department to the Chamber of Deputies, Mohamed Damak, said that the chamber issued during its general session this morning a statement in which it expressed astonishment at the decision by the U.S. Senate on considering Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The chamber denounced this decision because it contradicts international law and the Security Council's resolutions, and opposes the official stance the United States has been committed to since Israel's occupation of Jerusalem in 1967. The Chamber of Deputies stressed that this stance by the U.S. Senate hampers the peace process in the Middle East, and increases Israel's stubborness, rejection of the peace endeavors, and perseverance in repressive and expansionist practices.

The Chamber of Deputies expressed support for President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's government in its stand on this issue, its continuous endeavors to support the state of Palestine and the PLO, and its support for the intifadah aimed at the recovery of the rights of the Palestinian people, their sovereignty, and their usurped land, with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omited]

Ben Ali Receives Italian Party Chief Craxi

LD1604204490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning received Mr. Bettino Craxi, the secretary general of the Italian Socialist Party. An informed source at the presidency reported that the discussions dealt with Tunisian-Italian relations and ways to bolster bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

The same source added that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Mr. Bettino Craxi, who is the personal representative of the UN secretary general in charge of this topic, examined in depth the issue of indebtedness facing the Third world countries in general and the Arab Maghreb countries in particular. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Chairs Meeting of Party Leaders

LD1704140490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] The proceedings of the regular session of the Higher Council of the National Pact began at the government palace in Casbah tonight at about 2100 under the chairmanship of Hamed Karoui, the prime minister. This meeting was attended by the representatives of five political parties, namely: Abderrahim Zouari, the secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally; Mohamed Belhaj Amor, the secretary general of the Party of Popular Unity; Ahmed Najib Chebi, the secretary general of the Social Party for Progress; and Abderrahmane Tlili, the secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Union.

The meeting was also attended by the following officials from the four national organizations; Ismail Sahbani, the secretary general of the Tunisian General Union of Labor; Hedi Jilani, chairman of the Tunisian Union of Industry and Trade; Tewfik Essid, chairman of the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries; and Dr. Naziha Mezhoud, chairwoman of the National Union of Tunisian Women.

PDRY

Foreign Minister, Soviet Envoy Discuss Ties

EA1704133090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Central Committee member and foreign minister, today met comrade Albert Rachkov, the CPSU Central Committee candidate member and Soviet ambassador to Aden. During the meeting they discussed bilateral relations befween the two sisterly countries and ways of developing and strengthening them, and issues of mutual interest. The director of the socialist countries desk, brother ('Umar Husayn al-Huraybi) attended.

Saudi Arabia

Thai Police Identify Killers; Confident of Arrest

PM1704113990 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 10 Apr 90 p 1

[Muhammad Mahjub report: "Thai Interior Minister Tells 'UKAZ: We Have Identified Killers of Saudi Diplomats"]

[Text] Bangkok—Thai Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-Acha yesterday confirmed to 'UKAZ that the Thai police have identified the other suspects involved in the assassination of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok. There are six or seven people involved, and we will not reveal their identities before their arrest, which we hope will take place soon.

He said that Suchart Herabi ('Abdallah), who is now in custody, had confessed to being one of those who killed the Saudi diplomats. He has two brothers—Mat [as transliterated] Herabi ('Abbas), 28, and Suvit Kulik [as transliterated] Herabi, 26—who are also accused and are being sought.

He added hundreds of policemen are taking part in the search for the killers in the southern region of Thailand and soon will succeed in their task.

He pointed out the search is being conducted inside Thailand, but, if it is proved that any of the accused has fled the country to another state, the necessary measures will be taken to pursue him. It is untrue Hekmat Mustafa, accused of falsification, had come to Thailand through the Philippines.

Answering a question on possibly extraditing the killers to stand trial in the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia], the Thai interior minister said: That depends on an agreement being reached between the Saudi and Thai Governments.

He pointed out Saudi Embassy officials in Bangkok will be informed regularly of the details of the investigation and the search for the criminals. Officials at the Embassy have expressed their satisfaction with the course of investigations and the Thai police efforts.

A Thai Foreign Ministry official meanwhile revealed to 'UKAZ yesterday that Suvit Kulik Herabi, who is being pursued, is Suchart's third brother.

He added the criminals have Thai nationality, but that their father had come from an Arab country and married a Thai woman. Most of them still are inside Thailand, but probably one or more are abroad. It is most likely those who carried out the operation still are in Thailand. Those who planned the operation probably are outside the country.

He pointed out the investigations are concentrating on determining who is hiding and training the killers. It seems from the way the assassination operation was carried out that the method is not Thai, and we do not rule out involvement of an international terrorist organization in the assassination operation.

The official said the Thai police must obtain a permit from the public prosecutor before it can search for any of the accused—which already has been done according to Thai regulations.

Special sources in Thailand yesterday, furthermore, told 'UKAZ the arrest of the second defendant, Mat Herabi—one of those who participated in the criminal assassination of the Saudi diplomats in Bangkok—will be announced today.

King Fahd Meets With Pakistan's Bhutto

LD1704221190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Holy Mecca, 17 Apr 1990, SPA—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, received at his office in the Royal court in al-Safa Palace this evening Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her accompanying delegation.

The following attended: His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal, and His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim al-'Anqari, special adviser to King Fahd.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD1704174290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 Apr (SPA)—His Excellency Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali left Jeddah this afternoon after a visit to the Kingdom, during which he conveyed a message to King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, sovereign of the Moroccan Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Departs Following Meeting

LD1804052190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2337 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Jiddah, 17 Apr [SPA]—His Excellency Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Adhbi al-Sabah, Kuwait's oil minister, left Jiddah tonight after attending a meeting conducted earlier this evening which included His Excellency Dr. Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, oil minister in the United Arab Emirates; and His Excellency Hisham Nazir, the Kingdom's minister of oil and mineral resources. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Group Declares 'Holy War' on PDRY 'Pagans'

AB1604220190 Paris AFP in French 1034 GMT 15 Apr 90

[By Habib Trabelsi]

[Text] Manbma, 15 Apr (AFP)—The undercurrent of controversy generated a couple of months ago by the "Islamist" movement of North Yemen over the source of legislation in a future unified state has degenerated into open warfare between this hardline movement and those it calls the "pagan minority" of South Yemen. The "Islamists"—a term contested by the leader of this movement, Shaykh 'Abd-al- Hamid Zaydani, according to whom "the entire Yemeni people is Muslim"—reject the draft constitution for the unified state on the grounds it refers to shari'a (Islamic law) only as the "main", rather than the "only" source of legislation.

After calling on Yemenis to boycott the popular referendum on this draft constitution, Shaykh Zaydani declared a jihad (holy war) on "the tiny group of pagans within the Communist Party of South Yemen, who have been influenced by an imported culture and stand disgraced before the Yemeni people." "Our fight against the constitution will not stop until this minority group accepts shari'a as the only source of legislation", Shaykh Zaydani, was quoted as saying recently in an article by the Lebanese paper AL-HAYAT in London.

He also challenged Mr. Salim Salah Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP, Aden's ruling party) to a televised "verbal duel". "In the name of all ulemas of Yemen, I invite Salim Salah to set a date, venue, and topic for a debate that will put our people on the right track", he challenged, requesting that "the debate be covered live by the media of the two Yemens." Shaykh Zaydani, a religous personality who wields influence over the powerful northern tribes, said he was prepared to invite "ulemas and specialists" who would serve as judges at this "contest in eloquence".

Mr. Salim Salah, second in command of the YSP, accepted the challenge during an interview with AFP, but not without commenting that this proposal constitutes "a step forward relative to the extremist stand of our detractors." "My only request", he said, "is that before any debate takes place, Zaydani should present his political and economic program." He went on to stress that "the YSP has a program that has been presented in the global political and economic reforms document" prepared in June 1989.

The leader of the YSP, Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bid, recently cautioned against "obscurantist forces seeking to cast doubts in the minds of the people about the draft constitution, so as to hinder the process of unification." Shortly before, Mr. Omar al-Jaoui [name as received], secretary general of the Unionist Rally Party [South Yemen], had denounced "certain Islamist elements which owe allegiance to foreign parties, the very ones which fought against the republican regime and the revolution in our party." "These Islamists, who operate from abroad, have just brandished the banner of jihad because, as a matter of fact, they are opposed to unification", added Mr. al-Jaoui in an interview granted to the AL- KHALEEJ daily newspaper of the United Arab Emirates. An earlier accord on the unification of the two Yemens, signed in Tripoli in 1972, was resisted by the pro-Saudi tribal chiefs, who oppose any dealings with the "pagan regime" in Aden.

In February, Saudi Arabia officially expressed its "unlimited support" for the unification of the two Yemens, scheduled to be proclaimed in November 1990. For Mr. al-Jaoui, said, in any case, "if peaceful and democratic methods fail, unification will be brought about by force." "There can be no turning back", he stated, adding: "It is absurd to delay announcing the unification which cannot wait for 30 November, since it already is an accomplished fact." "If unification is not officially announced in two months' time, there will be trouble." "Either we unite, or we fight—even though fighting is not in the best interests of the Arab nation", he said.

This is why a clandestine party, the Organization for the Custody of Yemeni Unification, recently disclosed in Aden its main objective: "Fight the political forces of the north who are hiding behind religion to oppose unification." Its membership embraces personalities belonging to various nationalist parties and some politically independent individuals. They explain they operate clandestinely because "human rights are not guaranteed." They also call on the leaders of both countries to "expedite the implementation of the Aden accord without procrastinating." However, the joint political commission—charged, among other things, with mapping out by the end of May the policy of the unified state—has been in a state of hibernation for more than three months. A meeting scheduled to take place last week was indefinitely postponed.

Industry Ministry Comments on Capacitors Incident

JN1704135290 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 17, INA—A responsible source from the Iraqi Ministry of Industry made the following statement to INA in reply to the indictment issued by the Southern District of California and published by some international news papers.

The Court of Southern District of California has issued its bill of indictment No. 90.0211 on March 23rd 1990, against the following subjects:
1. 'Ali 'Ashur Daghir
2. Karim Ghaydan 'Umran
3. Walid 'Isa Ahmad
4. Jeanine Speckman
5. Zahir al-'Azzawi
6. Euromac (London) Limited
aka European Manufacturer Center, Ltd.
7. Atlas Equipment (U.K.) Limited.

As there is no legal connection between al-Qa'qa' General Establishment (the employer of ser. 2,3 and 5 above) from one side, and ser. 1, 4, 6 and 7 from the other, hence the contents of this memorandum is related to serials 2,3 and 5 only.
1. The bill of indictment stated that the contracted items are "nuclear warhead detonation capacitors" based on the technical specifications of those items.

Describing the item required by al-Qa'qa' General Establishment as being used for nuclear purposes is completely untrue. As:
A. The required items were merely capacitors that were contracted to be purchased for use in constructing CO2-laser system by the university of technology for its own research purposes, this university has issued the relative formal end user certificate.
B. The choice of those capacitors was made out of the American manufacturer csi-capacitors product catalogue, the apropriate model chosen was (E5) as designated in the catalogue which is used for laser applications, the model and quantity were confirmed through al- Qa'qa' telexes Nos. 119 and 2975 dated Jan, and May 31 1989 respectively.
C. The a/m capacitors have wide range of well-known technical applications, such as:
—Various laser system applications.
—Stage separation systems applications in rockets and space shuttles.
—X-ray system.
—Radar and communication system.

The object of selecting American military standards for specifications was to insure precision, compactability [as received] and quality of performance.
2. It was claimed that the Iraqi side has attempted to smuggle the contracted items illegally, while not acquiring or even applying for relative export license:

Al-Qa'qa' General Establishment one of Iraqi Ministry of Industry bodies, has formally agreed with the British company (Euromac) on supplying a number of capacitors with total amount of (10,500) U.S. Dollars after studying various offers presented by various foreign companies.

The Establishment as the (buyer) is not responsible for acquiring export licenses from other countries, according to American laws and international trade customs as well as Incoterm [expansion unknown] rules issued by the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris. As this is the sole responsibility of the supplying company (the seller). Thus we see that the general conditions of contracts often include that "standard conditions" which deems the seller responsible of acquiring the export licence from the competent authorities.

In this case, Euromac and the sub-supplier CSI are responsible of acquiring those licences (if necessary).

Moreover, the buyer is not in a position to know what items and what countries [are] subject to export restrictions, as they vary from country to country depending on types of products and political relations, which makes it difficult for the buyer to know what is restricted or not. Sometimes it is difficult even for the seller himself especially in the U.S.A., and it was experienced on many occasions that the American supplier is unable to confirm acquiring export licenses for the contracted material (if required) and in many cases, the American supplier postpones export licence application until the date of shipment, then, he would contact customs authorities to get necessary information and to act accordingly.

Trade relations indicate many cases where the buyer considers inability of the seller to export the material due to his inability to obtain necessary export licences as failure to commit to his obligations, consequently the seller is held responsible for all consequences. In return we note that the seller often rejects such obligations, due to the fact that he only can do his utmost best to try to obtain required licences but he cannot guarantee acquiring it or even to keep it valid until concluding his contractual obligations.

In many cases, the seller did fail to obtain necessary export licence after signing the contract and issuing l/c's and even executing the down payment. Then both parties are forced to settle the matter either in an amicable manner or through the competent court (if necessary).

In this case before our hands, the Establishment has signed a formal contract with British company (Euromac) which in its turn contracted the American subsupplier CSI. Hence its the responsibility of the two latter companies to indentify whether the contracted material requires export licences, and if so, take the necessary arrangements to obtain them according to the prevailing laws in supplier's country.

The Establishment did not, and could not violate export laws as it is not the concerned party in such transaction.

The supplier has full liberty to sign the contract from the beginning, and is committed then to contact concerned customs authorities to get acquainted with the procedures required for the contracted material and to make sure whether export licence is needed for this very item or that.

There is no ambiguity in this case, and the Establishment has acted clearly and openly. It did not conceal its contract nor did it use covered correspondence procedures.

All correspondences concerning this subject were conducted through normal telex lines which are subject to constant monitoring and tapping procedure from concerned authorities as it is well known. Nor did the establishment conceal the nature of the contracted material or its application or its end-user.

It is clear, that the competent authorities in supplier's country has the right to reject granting export licences according to prevailing laws when being informed by the seller with his wish to export the material, but it has absolutely no right to get transaction as a party with the objective of trapping and defaming.

There is nothing in the internationally recognized principle of laws that allows the executive authorities to encourage or to support any subject, person or company or whosoever to act in violation to the prevailing laws with the objective of trapping that subject and then arresting him. This policy, in addition of being illegal, fully contradicts with moral laws that bind the state and its bodies to guide its citizens and others to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong acording to its prevailing laws.

The Establishment conducted all its activities in goodwill with both the supplier and the sub-supplier starting from signing formal contract and introducing end user certificate up to using open telex lines for correspondences and attending a meeting in London with accepting the idea of setting another meeting in the U.S.A.

The clear legal position of the Establishment cannot be spoiled through claims that Euromac being an agent or a purchase office for Iraq, or that this company is acting on behalf of the establishment. Since those claims are completely false. The subject 'Ali 'Ashur Daghir is a British citizen of Iraqi origin. He is also the manager of a British company working for its own with no direct or indirect connection to the Establishment or any other Iraqi governmental entity.

The relation between the Establishment and this company is strictly contractual relation based upon simple and formal trade deal.

Contracts often indicate that the supplier is not considered as agent or an employee of the buyer as a result of those contracts, which is a very well known fact in international trade transactions, hence, 'Ali 'Ashur Daghir can never be considered an agent or a representative of the Establishment nor can it be held responsible of what he does or says which is the sole responsibility of his own.

Therefore, there is no way that the Establishment could be held responsible for the telexes and telephone calls between 'Ali 'Ashur Daghir and other persons or companies, or be considered approved by the Establishment.
3. Transfer of amounts to U.S.A. to finance illegal deals.

Those transfers were made according to formal contract in order to pay the American sub-supplier CSI. The transfers were made in fully open and clear manner with no secret or illegal intentions. Hence, there is no violation to the law by the Establishment whatsoever.

President on Readiness To Defend Iraq, Arabs

JN1804084490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2150 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has said: You know how happy Iraqis are on al-Faw day, and we also know how happy the heroic fighters are on al-Faw day. His excellency prayed that next Ramadan would bring further strength and prosperity, and that the next anniversary of this day would bring further peace, which always accompanies strength, which will never stop, God willing.

During a ceremony to bestow the al-Qadisiyah Sword and the title of al-Qadisiyah Hero on our dear late Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah and to award a group of our heroic fighters the al-Rafidayn Order and medals of bravery in appreciation of their role in defending the homeland's honor, strength, and dignity against the treacherous Iranian aggression, his excellency added: No final result can be dissociated from the profound effort preceding it; the liberation of al-Faw is equal to the performance and the combat spirit demonstrated for its sake. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of the president's address: [passage omitted]

We are not being proud, but sincere, when we say whoever attacks Iraq will find in Iraq those who will respond to him, and that whoever attacks the Arab nation will find in the Arab nation those who will respond. When I say he will find in the Arab nation those who will respond to him, I know Iraq is part of the Arab nation. In other words, if he finds no one anywhere in the Arab homeland to respond to his aggression, it would not be unusual or out of a desire to show off to say we will respond to him from Iraq. If any party, anywhere in the globe, of whatever size, tries to attack any Arab that accepts our assistance, we will respond to the aggressor to the best of our ability. If we can throw stones at him, we will throw stones; if we can fire a missile, we will; if we can strike with all our missiles, bombs, and all our resources, then we will strike him with all our missiles,

bombs, and resources, wherever he may be. We will chase him. We not only will strike him in his place, but we will chase him wherever he may be. We will make him unable to distinguish between day and night. We will narrow the globe on him wherever he may be

As a fighter once said, we will make them very sick, and as the saying goes, the Iraqis will tell them when to breathe. Everyone should know his rights as we know ours. May God help us not to encroach on anyone's rights. We only seek our rights, and we support truth against falsehood. We only support victims of aggression. Others also should know their rights and limits, regardless of their titles and names. We do not respect titles when they carry out aggression. Titles should not be respected when they carry out aggression. Correct? Do you want to hear something other than these words, or is this not the way it should be? It should be this way, and we no longer know anything other than these words. If anyone believes we will change these words, then by God, we will not change them, and we will continue to abide by them. [passage omitted]

Speaker Criticizes European Parliament Resolution

JN1504161690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said the European Parliament's resolution against Iraq has no objective basis, is not balanced, is not objective, and constitutes interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. Meeting with reporters today, he said the resolution takes a negative position toward Iraq, a country that believes in peace and cooperation with nations and desires peace in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf in particular. He added that Iraq's desire for, and adherence to peace from the beginning of the war and its calls to halt it as soon as possible, despite Iranian intransigence, were the best evidence of its serious and honest desire for peace in the region.

The National Assembly speaker added the European Parliament made a great mistake, because it derived its information from parties known for their hostility toward Iraq in particular and to the Arab nation in general. He added the European Parliament's hostile resolution constitutes another link in the conspiracy against our Arab nation and an attempt to attack Iraq because of its scientific and technological victories, to hamper the development process in Iraq, and to limit its opportunity to possess the means of modern scientific and technological progress.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih then urged all Arabs to take a unified Arab position against Zionist, American, and British efforts against Iraq and the Arab nation to expose and foil the enemies' attempts and plots. He went on to say Arab parliaments have responded positively to the National Assembly's invitation to attend an extraordinary meeting in Baghdad from 18 to 19 April. The meeting's participants will discuss the European Parliament's resolution against Iraq and work out measures to confront that position—which is considered a clear threat to pan-Arab security and direct interference in our domestic affairs—and to draw European governments' attention to the seriousness of that resolution.

Papers Assail UK-U.S.-Israeli 'Falsehoods'

JN1304093790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Apr (INA)—Iraqi newspapers today denounce the British-U.S.-Zionist media clamor against Iraq and say it is based only on unfounded falsehoods and lies. In their editorials, the newspapers ridicule those who market this type of exposed campaign, designed to halt Iraq's awakening and progress and distort its international reputation. The papers are also unanimous in stressing Iraq is capable of defeating and foiling any hostile and conspiratorial scheme, and that it never will concede even the slightest part of its rights and dignity under any circumstance.

In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: The wild media and political campaigns againt Iraq that the British Government stirred up and took part in fall in one direction—the restraining of Iraq's natural and legitimate right to scientific and industrial progress and the distortion of the country's reputation, great victory, and advanced march.

AL-THAWRAH stresses the British media clamor about the confiscation by customs officials of a shipment of heavy weapons on board a vessel headed for Iraq at Teesside port, in northeast England, is a baseless lie and a groundless and exposed clamor.

The paper emphasizes the British Government, which failed in its two previous campaigns—one over the execution of the spy Bazoft and the other, a fabricated campaign about electrical capacitors—once again is trying its luck, all bad, to fabricate a new media campaign that inevitably will fail.

The paper refers to statements by an official source at the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization in response to the falsehoods and baseless allegations made by BBC Television, and to his assertion that the vessel was carrying steel pipes for a petrochemicals project in Iraq.

The paper touches on the remarks by the spokesman for the British firm that manufactured the pipes; the spokesman said the pipes sent to Iraq would be used for the petrochemicals project and had nothing to do with weapons. The paper says: The spokesman said his firm contacted the British Department of Trade and Industry immediately after the contract with Iraq was signed, and that the department approved the contract.

AL-THAWRAH reasserts the role played by decrepit Britain during the Iraq-Iran war and following the ceasefire within the framework of the imperialist and Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation no longer is

hidden from us. The paper states there is a link between the fabricated campaigns and the political and economic dilemma facing the Thatcher government, which is exacerbating with time. This dilemma, the paper says, makes Thatcher fabricate and inflate foreign crises in an exposed attempt to divert attention from the internal crisis and to cover up for the disintegrating situation in all areas. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH also denounces the campaign of falsehoods and lies fabricated by the British Government.

In an editorial entitled, "Our Will is Stronger," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The base methods followed by hostile quarters and their Zionist allies and masters will not make Iraq retreat from the path it chose for itself and will not twist its arm to halt its scientific and technological progress.

The paper asserts Iraq will continue to pursue its strong march. It says: These attempts will prompt Iraq to examine which are the honest parties it can deal with internationally and give them its principled trust, which can make a better distinction between those who are worthy of trust and those who have no ethics except those of thieves and pirates. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by stressing Iraq's independent will is as hard as steel, and no one can defeat its determination to build the bases for its scientific and technological future. The paper also stresses the time is gone forever when maneuvers and pressure brought results. It calls on British and U.S. imperialist quarters and their Zionist allies to understand Iraq's firm stance and legitimate right to build its march with all means available.

In its editorial, AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Britain, which seeks to fabricate desperate and exposed events against Iraq, cannot influence Iraq's firm position or make it retreat from its firm and clear path. It also says that by fabricating a silly event every day to justify their unjust campaign against Iraq, the British authorities only are engaging in stupid actions that remind the world of all the massacres and atrocities committed by the once great Britain against mankind. [passage omitted]

AL-QADISIYAH warns Britain against continuing its ploy and against interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. It also warns Britain against exerting any pressures or making any threats against us to justify a Zionist aggression against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH also stresses Iraq's inalienable and legitimate right to exercise its sovereignty according to international laws and norms. It emphasizes Iraq never will give up even the slightest part of its rights and dignity in any scientific, technological, or other fields under any circumstance. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Cited on 'Anti-Iraq Campaign'

JN1504115790 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 15, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today has said that the anti-Iraq campaign is continuing despite all the facts that confirm falsehood of the allegations and accusations directed against Iraq.

A daily editorial today has said that this continuity is clearly pointing out the put-up intentions against Iraq and the Arab nation and also indicates that parties of the campaign are intent on going on to the end in their hostile scheme which they have planned.

The paper has also referred that any observer of the hostile campaign being promoted by the big players will notice that dubious keenness on continuity of the campaign and feeding it with new chapters by which they try to confirm what they term "the danger which Iraq constitutes."

Thus, the capacitors have been rendered into nuclear triggers and some steel tubes imported for the petrochemicals complex were changed into gun barrels capable of launching satellites, and before that those who are trading with the slogan of human rights have changed Bazoft from a spy into an innocent victim.

The paper has also mentioned that if President Saddam Husayn's talk on the second of this month has torn off the masks behind which the hostile scheme is hidden, it has also not left any room for suspicion among the hostile parties concerning Iraq's capability of rendering a back-breaking retaliation if it was exposed to aggression or if the Zionist entity attempted to attack our industrial and scientific installations.

The paper confirms that with the president's talk the political battle which the enemies have started against Iraq has acquired its real intention and the Arab nation has become certain that it is in a new confrontation with its historic enemies.

It has further said that the Arab nation realizes that the enemies reject to concede its independence, stature and rights and that they are trying to keep it in the positions of weakness and backwardness. That is why the big players are entering the arena against Iraq as it represents the Arabs' fortress and shield.

AL-THAWRAH has also stressed that this Arab comprehension greatly contributes to expose the scheme and confirms preparedness to stave off its dangers.

AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has said that goals of the media campaign hostile to Iraq, necessitate twisting the realities. In its article, published today, the paper said that soundness would never achieve the first phase of the aggressive ploy and would also never shift it to the last phase written by the big players, therefore they

turned the capacitors into nuclear triggers and the mineral pipes for the petrochemicals plant had become huge guns devoted for launching satellites or nuclear shells. [sentence as received]

The paper made it clear that the big players had carried President Saddam Husayn's statements on April. 2, from warning the aggressors against consequence of any aggression on Iraq to a threat to the West. [sentence as received]

The paper further said that according [to] the scenario Israel had become the victim threatened by the Arabs and gave it the right to test-launch its rockets to counter the Arab rockets, on the other hand Washington had been obliged to support Tel Aviv.

The paper concluded by saying that the Arabs rejected these ploys and also rejected yielding to threats or aggression because they were capable of disclosing goals of the ploy and capable of deterring the aggressors.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad has confirmed that Iraq seeks for peace and fights for realizing it, because it sees that peace is the straight course of life and its humanitarian, scientific, and civilizational prospects.

In its article, published today, the paper said that Iraq's stand in this respect was documented, the matter that made the world view Iraq with admiration, because it has been dealing with peace with established convictions and unshakable faith.

The daily dealt with dimensions and goals of the dubious propaganda campaign being launched by the imperialist and Zionist circles against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper clarified that Iraq's great experiment and depth of its wise policies could never be scaled down or obliterated whatever capability of media of the hostile circles could be.

The paper added that the campaigns being launched against Iraq, were not but a mere cover required in calculations of aggression against Iraq with a view to aborting its scientific leaps and impeding its constant search for advanced technology for the peaceful purposes.

Paper Urges Arab Summit To Confront 'Challenges'

JN1604075390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called for a new Arab summit to confront challenges and devise a unified, firm Arab position capable of confronting the Arab nation's enemies and defending the Arab nation's basic pan-Arab interests.

In an article today the paper says the Arabs believe in and strive to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace, not only in this region, but also in the entire world. The Arabs refuse to give in to the will of the United States or any other nation. The Arabs possess huge resources and capabilities which can be exploited to influence the U.S. policy to safeguard their homelands and pan-Arab security, and to maintain their interests and legitimate rights.

AL-THAWRAH explains the overall U.S. and Zionist statements and actions indicate there is a conspiratorial design targeting pan-Arab security. The paper says: Without doubt, the fierce media and political campaigns persistently instigated by the U.S. and Zionist circles against Iraq are a prelude to a new Zionist aggression against Iraq or another Arab country.

AL-THAWRAH indicates that as Arab officials talk about a U.S.-Zionist plot, they definitely point to a visible and sweeping danger threatening the entire Arab order, regardless of whether Israel accepts this view or not. This view does not stem from a prior hostility to the United States.

AL-THAWRAH stresses all the Arabs want and wish to establish relations of friendship and cooperation with all world states. There is no difference in this regard between a small or big country, or between the United States or other countries. Such relations, however, should be on clear, understandable bases of equality and mutual respect for interests, legitimate rights, and requirements of national security.

Paper on Saddam's Dialogue With U.S. Senators

JN1804135490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed Iraq is exercising its legitimate right and that of all peoples on earth. It is the right to achieve development, construction, and technological and scientific progress, to secure the means to defend this development, and to lay the foundations of progress toward a prosperous future.

In an editorial, the paper says: President Saddam Husayn's dialogue with the U.S. Congress' delegation was not only clear and frank, but also was brave, resolute, and strong.

The paper adds: His excellency the president always was known to the Arab nation as an outstanding speaker, a clever interlocutor, and a brave Iraqi Arab citizen, as well as a responsible and wise leader. In his dialogue with the delegation, he did not rely only on his cleverness and powers of argument, but also on the logic of justice and faith in the Arab nation's just cause, the history of its great and glorious leaders, and their eternal deeds. On the strength of this, he embodied the Arab nation's conscience and expressed its great spirit when he replied to the twisted logic of the haughty Zionist-imperialist policies, which seek to turn truth into falsehood and justice into injustice.

The paper adds: Since our victory over Iranian aggression after eight years of glorious and heroic fighting, we find the enemies of our nation have been lying in wait for us and fabricating pretexts to tarnish our reputation, to incite others against us, and to pave the way for a new aggression against the pillars of our progress and awakening. They were astonished because, two years before the liberation of our national soil, we were able to make scientific and technological achievements. Therefore, they have realized our true capabilities, as our leader and the conscience of our nation President Saddam Husayn said, prosper under peace. This has provoked them and all the rancorous parties that envy us. This is why they have all done their best to undermine us, restrict our movement, and besiege us within the circle their evil minds have drawn for us, as if we have no rights other than those recognized by them.

We are exercising our legitimate right and that of all peoples on earth. It is our right to achieve development, construction, and technological and scientific progress, to secure the means to defend this development, and to prepare our journey toward a prosperous future that guarantees a good, honorable, free, and happy future for us and for our future generations. Our leader has made it very clear that what others are allowed to do is no longer forbidden to us or to the Arab nation. We extend our hand to whoever seeks peace and pure and honest friendship with us, and whoever does not want this, then he should be responsible for his mistakes and those of his followers.

The paper adds that the leader president's dialogue with the U.S. Congress delegation was not a lesson only to his interlocutors and their governments, but also to all leaders and rulers of small and medium states. This is because, had these states' leaders and rulers confronted the big powers and their administrations with this resolute, strong, just, frank, and clear logic, then the powers would have reconsidered their behavior, policies, and their relations with small or medium states. As a result, the principles of mutual treatment, respect for rights, noninterference, and equality would have had a stronger presence in international relations, and a more effective role in bolstering peace and stability and their noble values in the march of the whole world's peoples and states.

Iraqi UN Protest Note on Iran Distributed

JN1704195590 Baghaad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The United Nations, 17 Apr (INA)—Iraq has affirmed it reserves the right to deal with the dangerous Iranian cease-fire violations in whatever way it deems appropriate. This was stated in a message sent by Iraqi Permanent UN Representative Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the text of which was distributed here today as an official document of the UN Security Council.

Iraq urged the secretary general to work to open the eyes of the Iranian side to the dangerous nature of its violations and to warn it against continuing these provocative acts, which threaten the cease-fire status and do not provide the appropriate atmosphere for the peace process.

Iraq stated in its message the Iranian side opened fire on 29 March at a guard post in the region of the 7th Army Corps and seriously injured a soldier in the head. The soldier had to be hospitalized for treatment.

He added that the Iranians opened fire on Iraqi positions on 5 April, injuring a master sergeant in the left thigh.

The Iraqi message pointed out that the last incident of Iranian violations took place on 7 April, when the Iranians fired RPG's at an Iraqi fishing boat north of the island of Umm al-Rasas, where it had drifted because of a strong current.

It said that these civilian boats were carrying six people whose ages were not more than 16 years. The Iranian shelling led to the martyrdom of one of them, who fell in the Shatt al-'Arab while the rest reached the western bank of the waterway. One of them was injured.

Al-Anbari, Perez de Cuellar Discuss Iran Talks

JN1704203090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1812 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] United Nations, 17 Apr (INA)—'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent UN representative, met here today with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Iraqi sources told INA the talks dealt with some Iraqi queries about Perez de Cuellar's proposal to hold a direct meeting between Iraq and Iran. The sources added Iraq asked the secretary general to give it advanced notice of any proposed date for such a meeting so Iraq can prepare for it.

Jan Eliasson, the secretary general's representative in the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations, attended the meeting.

Perez de Cuellar previously suggested conducting a direct two-month meeting between the two sides in New York to implement the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Ramadan Meets With PRC Communications Minister

JN1504162090 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad Apr. 15, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, today received here visiting Chinese Minister of Transport and Communications Qian Yongchang.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan stressed importance that forthcoming stage would witness an expansion of the formulas of cooperation and exchange of meetings between Iraqi and Chinese officials and work for activating works of the joint Iraqi-Chinese committee in a way compatible with the standing relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Speaking at the meeting, the Chinese minister was reported to have expressed the Chinese firm readiness and desire to implement development projects in Iraq.

Mr. Qian expressed China's strong stand alongside Iraq against foreign interventions that contradict with the will of peace-loving peoples and work to achieve scientific progress.

The meeting also touched on bilateral relations and means of promoting them for the interest of the two countries.

Minutes Signed on Cooperation

JN1604210990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—The joint Iraqi-PRC minutes were signed at the Ministry of Trade today at the conclusion of the seventh session of the joint Iraqi-PRC committee for economic, commercial, and technical cooperation. The minutes were signed for Iraq by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and for the PRC by Qian Yongchang, minister of transport and communications.

The minutes show the two parties have agreed to increase the volume of trade, contribute to the execution of certain development projects, and take part in the international fairs held in the two countries. They also stressed they were endeavoring to improve relations and expand technical, agricultural, and transport and communications cooperation. They also agreed to continue to work with the credit facilities provided by the PRC to cover peaceful [as received] exports and execute development projects.

The two ministers spoke at the signing ceremony and praised the results achieved to strengthen relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries. The signing ceremony was attended by the PRC charge d'affaires and members of the Iraqi and PRC delegations to the committee.

PRC Minister Departs 17 Apr

JN1704164690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Qian Yongchang, Chinese minister of transport and communications and leader of the Chinese delegation to the joint Iraqi-Chinese committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, and his delegation left Baghdad at dawn today after a one-week visit to Iraq.

The Chinese minister conducted talks with Iraqi officials that centered on promoting trade, economic, and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Chadian Foreign Minister Conveys Note, Departs

JN1704203490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Chadian Foreign Minister Acheikh Ibn Oumar, personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Chadian President Hissein Habre, left Baghdad this afternoon following a three-day visit to Iraq.

During his visit the Chadian envoy delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Chadian President Hissein Habre dealing with ways of developing bilateral relations.

Seeing him off at the airport were a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Chadian ambassador in Baghdad.

Peres Interviewed on Unity Government Option

TA1704164890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Interview with Knesset Member Shim'on Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, with party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel in his Tel Aviv office "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Deqel] Mr. Peres, the Labor Party Bureau meets in two days. One of the proposals to be raised on that occasion will be to try to set up a unity government. How will you react to such a suggestion?

[Peres] I was not aware that anyone was thinking of such a proposal at all, as the Likud headquarters has already announced its opposition to a unity government. So what could be the basis for such a proposal?

[Deqel] What you are saying is, in fact, that this option, from your standpoint, is not relevant?

[Peres] It is irrelevant at the moment because Rabbi Schach [SHAS, Torah Observing Sephardim, spiritual leader] evidently told the Likud he objects to such a government, and two other parties in the Likud's camp said the same, besides the Likud leaders themselves who expressed their opposition to this option. Thus, I think this possibility is impractical. Consequently, the presumption that the issue will be broached at the bureau convention is also, to my mind, unfeasible.

[Deqel] Mr. Peres, the additional 15-day period you had been granted by the president will expire 19 April. The law allows you to seek yet another extension. What will you do?

[Peres] I will make do with these 15 days.

[Deqel] Even if you realize you cannot set up a government?

[Peres] Precisely.

[Deqel] So that in that case there will be elections?

[Peres] Let me tell you I have never shown a greater proclivity to shun prophesying than today, because if you had asked me two weeks ago what changes I could predict for the coming fortnight, I would presumably have been unable to foresee them.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew, later in the same newscast, adds that "Shim'on Peres said if he can he will present a minority government that will not enjoy an absolute Knesset majority."]

Editorials Take Stands on Dole Statements

'Early Warning' to Israel Seen

TA1704134690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 90 p B1

[Editorial: "A Bitter Gift for the Holidays"]

[Text] Senator Robert Dole was never a friend to Israel. Last year he added to his impressive reputation as a key American figure lacking sympathy for Israel. In this respect, the remarks he made about Israel while in Israel need surprise no one. Furthermore, as a reporter affiliated with Israel said when interviewed by the BBC, many of Israel's sworn friends in the United States are expressing their dissatisfaction with the freeze in the peace process, and recently with the inability to establish an authoritative and operational government.

Dole is not necessarily bound to the truth. Teddy Kollek did not speak the words about Jerusalem that the senator from Kansas attributed to him. If he claims that when he joined the Senate resolution about Jerusalem he did not know what it is about, he is not telling the truth. It is as simple as that. Every senator has a staff of advisers. Dole, as the leader of the Republican minority, is in charge of a large staff that includes a foreign affairs adviser. There is no reason to assume he went on a tour of the Middle East without first being thoroughly briefed on the issues on the agenda. This includes the debate on the status of Jerusalem on which he voted, together with his associates, for deciding in Israel's favor. However, we will be missing the main point in the message the U.S. senator brought with him as a holiday gift for the people in Israel if we deal mainly with his prejudice; if we focus on rejecting his claims about Jerusalem; if we accuse him of being naive in relaying the peaceful intentions of Presidents Saddam Husayn and al-Asad toward Israel; or if we indulge in debate over the justification of U.S. economic and military aid.

The issue we should be dealing with now is the fact Dole is a prominent man in the U.S. political system, and the possibility he is the unofficial bearer of opinions held by influential administration circles and a messenger for those who are fed up with Israel.

We had better leave rectifying these or other "facts" in Dole's presentation on the issue of Jerusalem, and making assessments about his appreciation of the candor of the Iraqi and Syrian leaders, to those whose business it is: our foreign service workers and the various lobbies operating in the United States in the interest of Israel. Listening to the semantic debate is less important than listening to the message Dole wishes to bring to our attention—and not only on his own behalf. Here is the

detailed message: The Reagan-Shultz days are over, and with them ended the international political constraints (if there were any) according to which the U.S. Administration was extremely forgiving toward Israel. U.S. circles that cannot be ignored are tired of continuously pouring money into the Israeli bottomless pit. Also, perhaps to make it plainly visible, there is a readiness in the United States to question even our sacred symbols, such as Jerusalem's status as "the united and eternal capital of Israel."

This is a harsh and a bitter message, because it affects the basis of Israel's political-military thought. Israel did not refrain from confronting its neighbors, as well as countries in Europe and elsewhere, because of its belief in the stability of U.S. support in terms of material, civil, and military aid. Senator Dole is telling us now we are not immune forever, and that the change the whole world is undergoing will also be apparent in his country's relations with Israel. For the time being this is no more than an early warning, but if we ignore it or play it down, leaders and followers alike, we will be found wanting.

Views on Jerusalem, Aid Praised

TA1704163890 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Apr 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Senator Dole's Statements!!"]

[Text] The statements by U.S. Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate, regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and U.S. aid to Israel are a deviation from all the norms in the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington.

Senator Dole admitted the resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate, which considered Jerusalem a united city and Israel's capital, does not serve the peace efforts and is a mistake that must be rectified. How many wrong resolutions that do not serve the peace efforts have so far been adopted by Congress without heed to Palestinian or Arab rights or to the requirements of peace?

We are not trying to obtain a resolution by reviewing all the resolutions adopted by the U.S. legislative branch against Arab causes in general and the Palestinian cause in particular. We are saying, however, that political blindness, fanatical bias, and disregard for the views and rights of other parties always have been the pillars of human errors in the sphere of political relations between countries and nations.

Robert Dole's call on Israel to move toward peace clearly proves the cause of the stalemate impeding the launching of a peace process in the region stems from Israel's inability to adopt a decision that obligates it to move on the road of peace. The Israeli Government fell because of this. The world became convinced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had managed to say "no" to the ideas he himself had presented to the U.S. Administration.

Dole alluded to the massive aid Israel receives from the United States—which has reached, according to him, $40 billion in 10 years—cautioning it was impossible for this aid to continue when he said: "How long can we go on aiding a state: 10 years, 20, 30, 40, 50 years?"

It was obvious Senator Dole would say Israel's rejection of international tendencies calling for the establishment of peace in the region mean Israel's need for foreign aid, especially U.S. aid, would increase, and that the United States will not continue its aid forever. These remarks will have weight in Washington, and we believe they also will have an impact in the world. No president, or his secretary of state, or any congressman or senator has ever dared make such statements before.

Regardless of the outcome of Dole's remarks, we do not expect his statements to be transformed into deeds overnight, or even in one to 10 years, but we can say the change in U.S. public opinion has begun reaching the decision-making corridors in Washington.

Mitterrand: 'No Conditions' on Jewish Immigration

TA1704123890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Apr 90 p A2

[By Tamar Golan and Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand has relayed a message to the Israeli prime minister saying that in his opinion, no conditions should be imposed on the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Mitterrand's message came in response to a missive Shamir had sent him on the question of Soviet Jewry. Political observers note that Mitterrand's message does not in any way mention opposition to settling Jews [in the territories], which he had voiced in the past.

Mitterrand notes France's traditional position, which always has supported freedom of movement. "France, alongside other countries, has never spared any effort to persuade the Soviets to allow Jews to leave the country and go to Israel, if they so wish. It is good the situation now is clear," Mitterrand writes. Concluding his message, the French president says: "In our opinion, no conditions or obstacles should be placed on the arrival of Jewish immigrants to Israel."

Shamir, West Berlin Mayor Discuss United Germany

TA1804085690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Apr 90 p 2

[By the diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper assured Prime Ninister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday [17 April] that a newly reunited Germany would not constitute a threat to its neighbours, saying that the German people was well aware of the questions concerning reunification in the minds of Europeans and of the Jewish people.

Shamir said Israelis hope that if East and West Germany reunite, the new entity will be just as friendly towards Israel and just as democratic as West Germany has been

over the years. Responding to Momper's question about Israel's attitude to the PLO, Shamir condemned chairman Yasir Arafat's strident calls to attack immigrants on their way to Israel, a danger which has been averted solely thanks to Israel's effective security measures.

Ground Breaking Work Begins at Gaza Settlement

TA1704193690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Ground breaking has begun at the site of the Dugit settlement in the northern part of the Gaza District. Settler leaders in the Gaza District today brought a bulldozer to the site to break ground and also paved a route connecting the settlement site to the main road. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports about 10 temporary structures belonging to Amana, Gush Emunim's settlement movement, will be brought to the Dugit site in the next few days.

The World Zionist Organization's Land Settlement Department will supply the new settlement with a generator and a water tank and will finance the connection of the settlement to the electricity and sewage systems. The Hof 'Aza Regional Council will invest more than 100,000 shekels in breaking the ground for and establishing the temporary settlement. Dugit at the first stage will accommodate five families out of a nucleus of approximately 20 families.

New Neighborhood Near Jerusalem Prompts Criticism

TA1804081490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Approval for the establishment of a new neighborhood at Kfar Adumim near Jerusalem has aroused harsh criticism of Mikha'el Deqel, the prime minister's adviser on settlement affairs. This morning sources in the Defense Ministry said that the new neighborhood is a settlement being set up under the guise of a new neighborhood, which will be inhabited by members of the Alon settling nucleus. All this is in a bid to demonstrate some achievements. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] What has been defined as a new neighborhood of Kfar Adumim will actually be a temporary camp which will be inhabited by two nucleus groups of founding settlers belonging to Amana, Gush Emunim's settlement movement. The members of these founding settler nucleii have been waiting for a Cabinet resolution on the establishment of new settlements in the territories for about two years. Members of the Alon nucleus will inhabit the new neighborhood which will be set up on the temporary site of the settlement of Adam.

[Writing on page 1 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 18 April, Avi Bnayahu notes that "in the first stage, the settlement is envisioned to consist of 20 housing units. Alon is not included in the eight settlements approved under the coalition agreement." Bnayahu further points out that "approval for the establishment of the new settlement was given after Yitzhaq Rabin left the Defense Ministry."]

Mikha'el Deqel rejected the criticism voiced by sources in the Defense Ministry and stressed that the expansion of settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza does not require a Cabinet decision. The leaders of the settlers are also irate at the criticism and say that it is much ado about nothing.

Pinhas Wallerstein, head of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council, approved Kfar Adumim's expansion plans. According to him, all the plans have been approved by the planning committees as required.

[Wallerstein] It has been for one or one and a half years now, and all the plans for Kfar Adumim are being carried out on Kfar Adumim's land. There has been no digression from Kfar Adumim's jurisdiction. This is being done with the approval—or, at least with the knowledge—of Matitiyahu Drobles and Nisim Zvili, the co-chairmen of the Settlement Department at the time.

[Amir] Pinhas Wallerstein stresses that new neighborhoods are also being set up in other settlements, such as Kokhav Ya'aqov, 'Ofra, Talmon, and Alfe Menashe. According to him, the expansion at Kfar Adumim provides a good solution for the founding settler groups which have been demanding the establishment of settlements elsewhere.

[Wallerstein] We are talking about an existing site which was vacated when the settlement of Adam moved to its permanent site. In terms of infrastructure, if we manage to increase the budgets, this will make it easier for us to set up a new section within Kfar Adumim until the Israeli Cabinet approves the allocation of land elsewhere for an additional settlement.

[Amir] A new settlement or a new neighborhood? Whatever the case may be, the detractors of settlements in the territories are clearly determined not to allow a change in the status quo with regard to the settlements until such time as a new government is formed in Israel. [end recording]

[Military correspondent On Levi, on pages 1 and 2 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 18 April, quotes Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, as saying that "a new settlement is not being set up in Kfar Adumim and all settlement activities, including those in Kfar Adumim, are being conducted in accordance with the decisions of the outgoing unity government." Pazner stressed that the current government is "a caretaker government, and all it is doing with regard to settlement is to execute old decisions made a long time ago."]

Eviction Order Against Jerusalem Settlers Upheld

TA1704142190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] A few minutes ago the Jerusalem District Court ruled that the eviction order against the settlers in

Jerusalem's Christian Quarter remains in effect. The court canceled the ruling of Justice Shalom Brener to put off evicting the settlers from the building.

Jerusalem Settlement Plans Called 'Harmful Act'

TA1804093790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 90 p A1

[Editorial: "The Transitional Government's Sin"]

[Text] A transitional government is a government for every purpose, except for sinful acts. Last week, the transitional government's Ministerial Committee on the Status of Bequests to the State approved the sum of 7.5 million shekels for the purchase of assets in Jerusalem's Old City. The money was allotted to the Himanuta Company [subsidiary of the Jewish National Fund], which intends to use it to purchase Arab-owned houses and other property in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter. Himanuta was involved—albeit with a smaller sum than granted—in the acquisition of title in Saint John, where 150 Jews settled last week.

Other government funds had been invested in the harmful act: Apparently, Himanuta was the beneficiary of a Construction and Housing Ministry allocation. The Armenian Church secretary says a representative of that ministry offered the residents of the Armenian Quarter various amounts of money—tax money—for their consent to vacate the location. Even without his testimony, it is easy to see government representatives, guided by an unmistakable policy, have been taking vigorous action in this matter.

The issue of this settlement will be decided by the legal authorities, and the people who seized the place have announced they will evacuate if so ordered by the court—which the court has done. What we have here, however, is a formal dilemma: The purchase and seizure of the location are part of an obvious government policy. The results of this policy already have been observed in the shape of public disorder and of a most negative reaction on the part of Christian and other elements in Israel and abroad. When the toppled government was still in office, it exercised caution in giving freedom to its Likud component's settlement instincts. Now it appears to have shed all inhibitions. And no wonder: The Likud, which managed to freeze the process of peace negotiations, will do its best to take any action it deems necessary to pursue its creative job of disruption.

It would be useless to appeal to the transitional government and to entreat it to mend its ways. That is the way it is, and this is its direction. We will therefore make do with emphasizing the damage that its policy is causing Israel and its interests. With the downfall of the government, political echelons were deprived of the option of issuing an appropriate reaction. For the time being, the only path left open is public protest. Also, it would do no harm to reflect on the nature of the decisions of such a government, if the Likud heads it for more than an interim period.

Rockets Launched From Lebanon Land in Galilee

TA1604163190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Several Katyusha rockets launched from Lebanese territory landed in the western Galilee this morning, causing no damage. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports that the rockets landed on an uncultivated plot of land and that they were fired approximately 90 minutes apart. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht points out that these were 122-mm rockets and that, in the opinion of officers in southern Lebanon, they were fired from makeshift launchers outside the security strip, apparently from the orange groves along the coastal road south of Tyre. Our correspondent also notes that the last time Katyushas were fired from Lebanon into Israel was three months ago and that those landed in the Galilee panhandle.

30 Said Wounded in Gaza Strip Disturbances

TA1704170590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] There were serious riots in the Gaza Strip today and, according to Arab sources, about 30 local residents were wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports many of them already have been discharged from hospitals and clinics. Arab residents noted today's riots were some of the most serious in recent times. Most of the disturbances took place in Rafah. The reason for the riots is the second anniversary of the killing of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Meanwhile, it was reported an Israeli soldier was slightly injured when a stone hit him in the nose. He received medical treatment and was released from the hospital.

A bottle was thrown at an Israeli Army patrol in Gaza, but no one was hurt and no damage resulted.

Reportage on 'Arafat's Visit, Talks With Husayn

More on Arrival, Comments

JN1704094190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Apr 90 pp 1, 22

[Excerpts] His Excellency Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman at dawn today on an official, several-day visit to Jordan. His excellency will conduct talks during the visit with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian question developments, and the threats facing the Arab nation on all levels. [passage omitted]

On arrival, 'Arafat said: I have said this earlier, and I now repeat: They are planning to establish Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. U.S. Secretary of State Baker said Israel should forget its dream about establishing Greater Israel. This did not come from Baker's imagination. He has heard about it from the Zionist leaderships in the United States and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which published maps on this issue. Therefore, this demands, more than ever, Arab coordination on the highest levels. The Arab nation's higher commands also should meet as soon as possible to face this challenge. It is a to-be or not-to-be issue for us. We are not afraid. Therefore, we are holding consultations with Arab leaders on the convening of an Arab summit, and this is one of the issues I will discuss with His Majesty King Husayn.

Regarding the attack on Christian clergymen in Jerusalem, President 'Arafat said: The mountain will not be shaken by winds. Now there is a new Israeli fist. Shamir, his government, his Army, and his armed settlers now are seizing the opportunity made available to them by the predominating silence and the diversion of attention to other issues, including the make-believe clamor and noise over weapons in the region, as if they had forgotten Israel has 240 nuclear warheads. Who, then, is threatening whom? This Palestinian stone has, for 30 months, shaken and created a rift in the top of the pyramid of the Israeli authority. It has been one and a half months, and still they are unable to form a new cabinet. If they form a cabinet, it will be only for the sake of holding elections. We are familiar with this game; it will neither change our stands nor our steadfastness in the least.

On the message he addressed to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, president 'Arafat said: The message deals with Arab solidarity and the stand needed to face the dangers against the Arab nation. He declined further comment on the issue. [passage omitted]

Arafat asserted that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is much deeper than can be defined within the limits of a working paper. The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a special, distinguished one, and this is what the Palestine National Council has asserted in the past.

On the talks he held with the Swedish foreign minister, president 'Arafat said the minister is our first mediator with the U.S. Administration, and, at the same time, he is one of those working for the sake of the peace process. I made an assessment with him of the results of our efforts in this respect. 'Arafat denied Andersson had come up with any new proposals.

Regarding the impact of the political crisis in Israel on the peace process, 'Arafat made it clear that what took place in Israel—which was created by certain U.S. circles—is that Peres has not succeded in forming a government because there are some circles in the U.S. Administration that do not want Peres. They want Shamir.

The U.S. Administration did not take a neutral position. It supported the six members who were against the 10 points. It is clear that there are Zionist circles present in the U.S. Administration, although President Bush and Baker have good intentions.

Concluding his press statements, President 'Arafat addressed the kinfolk in the occupied territories on the occasion of the martyrdom of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and the anniversary of the Palestinian Prisoners' Day: The pledge is the pledge; the oath is the oath. This intifadah, which was baptized by the blood of Abu-Jihad, will continue wave after wave until the Palestinian flag is raised above the walls of Arab Jerusalem, the capital of the independent state of Palestine. This is the pledge of men for men.

Official Talks Begin

JN1704200490 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening hosted an iftar banquet at the al-Nadwah Palace in honor of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The following attended: His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, and the information minister. Members of the Palestinian delegation accompanying Yasir 'Arafat also attended, as did Bishop Ilya Khuri, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, 'Abdallah Hurani, Muhammad Milhim, Palestinian ambassador in Amman Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, Umm-Jihad, 'Abbas Zaki, and Akram Haniyah.

Official talks between the Jordanian side, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, began this evening at the Royal Hashemite Court.

Closed Meeting Conducted

JN1704214590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, conducted at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening a closed meeting at which they exchanged viewpoints on the most important pan-Arab issues, bilateral relations, and the march of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action.

The Jordanian side, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, conducted an expanded round of talks. The following represented Jordan at the meeting: His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the information minister. The following attended on the Palestinian side: Bishiop Iliya Khuri; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya; 'Abdallah Hurani; Muhammad Milhim; al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman; Mrs. Intisar al-Wazir, Umm-Jihad; 'Abbas Zaki; and Akram Haniyah.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn welcomed Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation and stressed the march of joint struggle which united us in the past will continue to unite us in the future. He said standing together in the forward trench is our destiny and a great honor which our duty to our homeland and nation has bestowed upon us.

His majesty said the dangers we face do not only threaten the Arab land in Palestine, but all the Arab countries. He also said we always have faced those dangers, and will continue to take the same position despite all circumstances and difficulties, united in mind and purpose. His majesty said our joint steadfastness always has enabled us to overcome the dangers.

His majesty stressed his confidence in the inevitability of our nation's triumph and achievement of all of its objectives. His majesty said we in this country are eager to build the model and the example for the homeland and will continue to adhere to its positions. We are certain all our brothers will deal with all the facts and dimensions of the threats in a manner that will enable all of us to stand fast and win, his majesty said.

His majesty said: Many battles were imposed on us in the past, and many battles could be imposed on us in the future. We will wage these battles together because we are partners in the same march. His majesty said what the Palestinian Arab people have offered and what they are sacrificing adds to the credit of their just cause. He said no one can deny the sacrifices and stances that contributed toward rallying support for the just Palestinian cause. His majesty affirmed the importance of continued coordination in various fields to fill any gap through which the enemies might infiltrate our ranks or use as a basis for harming what we have managed to achieve in our joint march. His majesty concluded his remarks by affirming our nation is a vigorous one, and will remain stronger than all challenges and dangers, which we will overcome.

Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, said: This hospitality with which we have been received and these cordial feelings which have embraced us are the honest embodiment of the concept of the one family that lives in this territory. 'Arafat said: As Jordanians and Palestinians, we always have been one family in Jordan and Palestine, and will continue to be so. 'Arafat affirmed our great destiny is to be in the first trench, and that our faith, tenets, and honor require we be faithful to the sacred bond that binds us together and continues to unite us in our joint march. 'Arafat added: We now need to stand together more than ever before. If the 1948 disaster has afflicted Palestine, the large-scale Jewish immigration paves the way for a disaster that will afflict the entire Arab homeland.

'Arafat said: The target in the past was Palestine, but now the target is the Arab territory beyond Palestine. He affirmed: With our joint position, we become stronger because we have a just cause. Our cooperation in all fields, therefore, is that of brothers faced with the same challenges and dangers.

JORDAN NEWS AGENCY has learned that during the expanded meeting, many important issues were discussed, the most prominent being the issue of Jewish immigration and its dangers, which threaten all countries that neighbor Palestine, as well as the importance of convening an Arab summit to develop a unified pan-Arab position on all developments in the Arab and international arenas.

His Majesty King Husayn gave instructions to the government to discuss all issues of joint interest and to coordinate efforts, especially in the political and media fields, in a manner leading to the best results for these and other pan-Arab issues.

King Greets Iraq's Saddam on Liberation Event

JN1704204190 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn phoned Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, congratulating him in the name of the Jordanian people and Government on the anniversary of liberating the al-Faw peninsula.

Earlier, his majesty the king sent a cable of good wishes to the Iraqi president, Mr. Saddam Husayn, on the anniversary of liberating the peninsula from Iran.

Political Groups Represented at UDA Conference

JN1704082190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, "special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—The Unionist Democratic Association (UDA)—a liberal political grouping seeking to become a legal party—held its seventh annual conference over the weekend and concluded it with an open meeting attended by representatives of at least seven political trends in the country.

The event is expected to mark the start of a new tradition in the political life in Jordan for in the past the existing groups had hitherto held their annual conferences underground.

Although the UDA, which was established in 1983, has never been a clandestine organisation, the conference—which took place at the Jerusalem Hotel Saturday and Sunday—was the first time that the association publicly introduced itself as a political party.

In a short speech, UDA founder Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir declared that his group hopes to represent mainstream Jordanians who are not part of the organised left or Islamic fundamentalist movement.

"As it stands now, the political map of Jordan includes two organised trends: The biggest is the organised Islamic coalition and the second and smaller comprises the leftist groups, but the majority of the Jordanians in between are not organised and do not have a group to represent them," he said.

"We hope that the UDA will represent this category without taking a hostile position against either the Islamists or the left," he added.

On their party, representatives of the Islamist and the leftist trends stressed commitment to political tolerance and pluralism. Muslim Brotherhood representative Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah seized the occasion to stress his group's readiness to work within a pluralist framework.

Abu-Ghanimah's remarks implied a departure from hostile attitude expressed in the last two months by a number of Muslim Brotherhood officials against Communist activities. It was not yet clear, however, if Abu-Ghanimah's emphasis on pluralism would translate into a change in the Brotherhood's position on the legalisation of the Communist Party.

Although most of the groups present did not announce any new position, the short speeches revealed aspects of the ongoing debate on the national charter.

Mazin al-Sakit, a pan-Arab nationalist, urged the Jordanian groups to articulate a clear position on the charter and its objective. "Will the charter define the shape, the direction and the limitations of the future political movement," he asked, "Will it be binding?"

In his comments, Dr al-Sh'ir pointed out that his group had always advocated public political activities as opposed to clandestine work and the establishment of parties which are independent from an affiliation with a state or a force abroad.

Dr. al-Sha'ir, a former Ba'thist, has repeatedly argued in the past that parties with extensions abroad have proved to be "destructive of and restrictive" to local parties.

In an apparant reply to Dr. al-Sha'ir's remarks, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) representative Taysir al-Zibri expressed resentment of the classification of parties as independent or with extensions abroad.

The JPDP broke away from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) last July (in complete coordination with the latter) after functioning as its Jordanian wing for more than one decade. JPDP officials insist that they are independent from the Damascus-based DFLP.

Representatives of the Jordanian wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Party of Justice, and the Constitutional Front (both of which are tiny groups which are seeking to turn into broad popular-based parties) also addressed he meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lower House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar urged all trends to cooperate to ensure the success of the Jordanian experiment with democracy.

Both Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and Palestinian ambassador al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim were present at the meeting.

French Envoy on 'Awn; French Officers Released

NC1704205790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today met with French Ambassador Rene Ala, Deputy Butrus Harb, Army Commander General Emil Lahhud, and Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir.

Ambassador Ala stated after the meeting that his meeting with General 'Awn took place at the request of a senior Lebanese official and with the approval of the president of the republic.

Regarding the movement of a French warship toward the Lebanese coast, Ambassador Ala explained that there is always a French ship in the eastern Mediterranean and that the movement of this warship is routine and normal.

Meanwhile, the presidential office information bureau this evening issued the following clarification: French Ambassador Rene Ala's mission to Gen. 'Awn, which took place at the request of a senior official and with the approval of the president of the republic, dealt with the release of two Lebanese Army officers who were detained by Gen. 'Awn a few months ago. Ambassador Ala secured their release. The president of the republic approved of this mission for humanitarian reasons. The mission had no political character.

'Awn Orders Officers' Release

NC1804074790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After meeting with the French ambassador, General 'Awn issued an order to release Colonel Antoine Sa'd and Major Yusuf al-Tahhan. Gen. 'Awn had ordered the detention of these two officers several months ago, charging them with participating in a plan to remove him from al-Yarzah and B'abda.

According to information, Officers Sa'd and al-Tahhan were released last Friday after 102 days. Initially, Gen. 'Awn detained them for two months at the beginning of this year. He later extended their detention for two more months, in case they might influence the officers and military personnel in his war against the Lebanese Forces.

Iranian Envoy Denies Amal Official's Murder

LD1704103790 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Beirut, April 17, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran Tuesday denied involvement in the assassination of an Amal official, Ali Abu-Hassan and strongly deplored terrorist activities. A statement issued by Iran's cultural counsellor's office here rejected as "unfounded" rumors spread by certain mass media that it was involved in the assassination of Amal's commander in the Zoukak el-Bilat district.

"These falsifications and charges on the eve of the International Day of al-Quds are undoubtedly part of a plot orchestrated by mercenaries of zionism and global arrogance to deviate the world public opinion from the issue of al-Quds and Israel's crimes," the statement said. It urged all "brothers and sisters" to vigilantly foil, under the present sensitive conditions, attempts by the Zionist [words indistinct] masters to sow discord among the Muslims aimed at creating more bloodshed and fratricide."

While strongly deploring any terrorist act, including the assassination of the Amal official, the statement urged the mass media to refrain from spreading baseless rumors which it said would only make the enemies of Islam and the Zionists' mercenaries happy.

Abu-Hassan was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in West Beirut on Monday.

Al-Huss on Government Caution Over Eastern Area

NC1604135990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss asserted today that the authority of the state will be established everywhere, especially in East Beirut and surrounding areas. He noted, however, that this will be done in well-considered steps that will keep the government from falling into a trap of committing errors that might harm the process of legitimacy, accord, and peace.

Asked about the calls at home and abroad for the legitimate government to expedite its measures to take over the barracks, facilities, and institutions in East Beirut in response to the Lebanese Forces' initiative and the recent statement by U.S. Charge d'Affaires Satterfield, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The government is certainly determined to establish its authority over East Beirut and other eastern areas. In doing this, it does not believe it is responding to the appeal of any individual, but rather to the call of its national and constitutional duty. It is the legitimate government which has been calling on everyone to join its march and serve under its banner. For this reason, we welcome any step taken by any party in response to the legitimate government's call. If the government is dealing with the situation with some caution, this is right and natural for more than one reason. As long as an armed conflict continues between two parties in the eastern area, the government cannot become involved in that conflict as a third party or take the side of one party against the other. It is no secret that the legitimate government does not possess sufficient military strength to decide the situation in its favor were it to intervene now. It is natural for the legitimate government, in light of this situation, not to take any step it cannot defend with its own resources.

Prime Minister al-Huss continued: For this reason, we are saying that we will certainly establish the state's authority everywhere in Lebanon, and especially in the eastern areas. We will, however, do this in carefully

considered steps that will enable the government to avoid committing errors that might harm the process of legitimacy and the march of accord and peace that it is leading. As to those who urge the legitimate government to expedite its steps to establish its authority, we draw their attention to the fact that the government has not yet received any assistance to speak of in developing its own military capability to defend the positions it might take over. He said this is the case despite all the government's efforts to acquire the necessary equipment for the army and the security forces from various sources.

Ibrahimi States Conditions for Meeting 'Awn

NC1804094790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Arab Envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi today emphasized that he is prepared to meet with General 'Awn when 'Awn approves the al-Ta'if agreement without any reservations. He said that his meeting with Samir Ja'ja' was constructive and that Ja'ja' is fully prepared to meet all the demands of the legitimate authority.

In an interview in AL-LIWA' newspaper this morning, Ibrahimi said: We understand the language of evasiveness and maneuvering. Any meeting with 'Awn outside the framework of what I have said would only subject the al-Ta'if agreement to further shocks and jolts we can do without.

Ibrahimi said: After Ja'ja''s effective support for President Ilyas al-Hirawi's legitimacy and his readiness to hand over the areas under his control to Gen. Emile Lahhud, we had to meet with Ja'ja' to discuss the details of his offers and proposls. We found Ja'ja' prepared to meet, as far as he is able, all the demands of the legitimate authority, and he is ready to implement all decisions made by the Prime Minister al-Huss government.

Ibrahimi said that the difficulties facing the al-Ta'if agreement are well known, beginning with the assassination of late President Rene Mu'awwad and ending with the Iqlim al-Tuffah battles and the bloody conflict in the eastern area. He expressed hope that all these obstacles will be overcome so that we may march on the right path.

Ja'ja' Comments on Meeting With Patriarch

NC1704153090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr chaired a meeting in Bkirki today which was attended by former President Charles Hilu, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja', and mediation committee member Abbot Bulus Nu'man.

In a statement after the meeting, Dr. Ja'ja' emphasized that everyone's ultimate goal is to extend the state's authority over all its establishments and administrations throughout Lebanese territory, particularly in the eastern areas. He noted that the current measures being taken, including the takeover of the barracks, constitute political progress on the ground. He added: We cannot imagine any existence, survival, or cause without a state. Dr. Ja'ja' stressed that contacts with President Ilyas al-Hirawi are continuing.

In response to a question, he pointed out that the current discussion centers on ways to settle the positions of B'abda, and we cannot but hope for the best and continue our efforts.

The Lebanese Forces commander hoped there will be no security flare-ups, stressing that the Lebanese Forces have no intention of triggering any flare-up and that there is no problem. He added: We hope General 'Awn has no intention of triggering a flare-up. He said: We have done what was required of us, and we hope everybody will follow suit so that a solution can be worked out in Lebanon and the minimum needs of the citizens can be met. He hoped that everyone will respond positively because the people cannot tolerate a continuation of current circumstances. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Paper on Syrian Arms Supplies to 'Awn

NC1804075090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Citing U.S. responsible sources, the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS said Syria recently supplied General 'Awn with arms and ammunition to continue the war against the Lebanese Forces.

The paper added that Washington raised this sensitive issue officially with senior Syrian officials, including Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. It pointed out that the Americans have become certain that secret direct and indirect contacts have been taking place between 'Awn and the Syrians and their allies in Lebanon since the end of last year and that secret meetings did take place in both Beirut and Damascus.

Amal Warns Against Jewish Settlement in South

NC1804062290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Amal Movement yesterday warned against attempts to establish a Jewish settlement in the south. 'Atif 'Awn, member of the Amal Movement Political Bureau, has revealed that a German company is erecting prefabricated houses in Saff al-Hawa', Rumaysh, and 'Ayn Ibil for Jewish immigrants in a new Zionist settlement, following the failure of the Robinson settlement experiment.

3 Die in Explosion at al-Yarzah Headquarters

NC1804101490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] According to security reports, there was an explosion at the strike force headquarters in al-Yarzah at 0930

today. Preliminary reports say that three military personnel died. The strike force commander, Captain Antoine Abu-Samrah, Captain Ilyas Sasin, and a large number of miliary personnel were injured.

Al-Yarzah sources confirmed the explosion and casualties. The sources added they are waiting for a military expert's report to determine the cause.

Amal Group Attacks Israeli Position in South

NC1704123690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] In the resisting south, an Amal Movement group attacked the [Israeli] enemy position in al-Qantarah yesterday with rockets and machineguns. An Amal statement said that a fierce 10-minute fight ensued between the resistance group and those manning the position. The position was directly hit and a machinegun emplacement was destroyed. Shortly afterward, the enemy shelled Wadi al-Hujayr and Qabrikha with mortars, slightly injuring an Amal fighter. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

Clashes, Shelling Continue in Beirut 17, 18 Apr

Pro-'Awn Radio on Ja'ja' Shelling

NC1704130390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The areas of Badaru, al-'Adliyah, (?al-Maslih), al-Tibbiyah, and Furn al-Shubbak are still coming under violent mortar fire from the positions of Ja'ja''s gunmen in al-Asharafiyah. Sniper fire is reaching deep into the residential areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah. The army positions along the Salome and the Galerie al-Ittihad combat lines came under extensive fire a short while ago.

Since this morning, the army positions and residential areas have been coming under continued shelling and sniper fire by Ja'ja''s gunmen. At noon, the areas of Buick and al-Tibbiyah came under violent mortar fire from the positions of Ja'ja''s gunmen in al-Ashrafiyah. A Lebanese Army soldier was martyred by the gunmen's sniper fire at 1145 today. The gunmen's bombardment of the Chevrolet area caused a fire to break out in a gas station in the area.

In another development, as a result of the Amal-Hizballah fighting in West Beirut a shell fell on the al-Hikmah school in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, wounding Father Antoine Abu-Haylah and another citizen.

'Awn Forces Attack in E. Beirut

NC1704130790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen resumed their attacks at noon today when they heated up the security situation on the Museum-al-'Adliyah and al-Tibbiyah-al-Barjawi lines, using tanks, mortars, and machineguns. Al-Ashrafiyah was also targeted by a number of shells.

Beirut Fighting 'Contained'

NC1704161790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Syrian troops, along with the joint security committee comprising representatives from the Amal Movement and Hizballah, have contained the clashes that took place in some neighborhoods in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb early today. Amal and Hizballah gunmen have withdrawn from the streets, which are being extensively patrolled by the Syrian troops, particularly in the areas of Burj Abu-Haydar, Tal'at al-Nuwayri, Ra's al-Nab', and the vicinity of the Iranian Cultural Center in West Beirut and the areas of al-Shiyah, the al-Ghubayrah traffic circle, the airport road, and al-Musharrafiyah in Beirut's Southern Suburb. [passage omitted]

In another development, skirmishes involving machineguns and rockets are currently taking place between Amal and Hizballah gunmen along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines. A responsible security source in the Amal Movement has stated that Hizballah troops used heavy-caliber mortars and rocket launchers to bombard the villages of Sarba, Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Jirnaya, Kafr Hatta, and Kafr Dib this morning and afternoon, wounding three citizens and slightly injuring an Amal member.

Hizballah sources reported a short while ago that the Hizballah positions in Safi, Jba', al-Luwayzah, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar came under shelling from Amal positions in Sarba and 'Anqun. The same sources added that Hizballah fighters were compelled to return the fire to silence it.

1 Killed in Amal-Hizballah Clashes

NC1804084290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Tension reigns in the Southern Suburb, especially in al-Shiyah, al-Musharrafiyah, and al-Ghubayrah. Tension also prevails in Wadi Abu-Jamil, where clashes broke out at dawn today between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, leaving a young boy dead and three persons wounded.

The clashes in Wadi Abu-Jamil began at approximately 0230 today and grew violent gradually, with the use of rockets and machineguns.

'Awn Radio on Fighting

NC1804090090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Excerpts] According to security reports, tension continues to prevail on the combat lines in the eastern area. 'Awn's and Ja'ja''s forces are exchanging sniper fire, sometimes using RPG's. [passage omitted]

'Awn's radio has reported that Lebanese Forces gunmen opened sniper fire at 'Awn's army positions on the Galerie al-Ittihad combat line last night. The radio said that Lebanese Forces gunmen fired incendiary shells at the military hospital in Badaru, wounding a number of civilians and military personnel and setting fire to one of the hospital's floors.

'Awn's radio added that two Lebanese Forces members were killed when their military vehicle blew up in al-Dawrah yesterday. The radio said that seven Lebanese Forces personnel were killed in an explosion in a Lebanese Forces' position in Juniyah.

'Awn's radio said that a Lebanese Red Cross team yesterday removed the bodies of two members of the Lebanese Forces who were killed when a Lebanese Forces group tried to infiltrate (Dabbughah) area.

Israeli Warplanes Stage Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC1704160590 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes staged mock raids over the city of Sidon and its camps at 1700 this afternoon, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Mountain, Coast

NC1804085590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes are now flying over the Mountain and the coast and as far as eastern Sidon on a reconnaissance mission.

Popular Liberation Army, Lahd Militia Clash

NC1704160790 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of various kinds of weapons are taking place between the Popular Liberation Army and agent Lahd's militia on the Kafr Falus-Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir lines [in eastern Sidon]. It has been reported that one person has been killed and two wounded in these clashes.

'Extremist Muslim' Member Killed in SLA Clash

NC1704202690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] One armed member of an extremist Muslim organization was killed and two were wounded during violent clashes today between the organization's gunmen and South Lebanese Army [SLA] members on the Lib'a, 'Ayn al-Mir, and Kafr Falus lines east of Sidon.

Three persons were killed and two wounded as a result of a shooting incident that took place in the al-Dalil printing and computer shop in al-Najmah Square in Sidon city this afternoon.

Lebanese Forces Hand Over Barracks, Juniyah Base

NC1704133590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Staff Brigadier General Elie Hayik, commander of the Jabal Lubnan zone, today took over more army barracks that were under the control of the Lebanese Forces. Following last week's takeover of the 'Amshit barracks, Brig. Gen. Hayik, accompanied by command staff officers, Staff Colonel Paul Faris, and a number of officers, inspected the Sarba barracks today. Major Elie Abu-Ta'i' represented the Lebanese Forces, which had earlier evacuated the barracks. The visitors inspected the damage sustained by the barracks and discussed ways to reorganize the barracks. Brig. Gen. Hayik will submit a report on this issue to the army command.

The military delegation then moved to the naval base in Juniyah for the same purpose. The barracks was handed over to Brig. Gen. Hayik by Lebanese Forces First Lieutenant Hisham Rahmi at 1300.

Athens Embassy Denies Role in Assassination

JN1704162990 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 12 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Athens, (SANA)—The Syrian Embassy in Athens has issued a statement refuting allegations by an article published by ABGOIMANTIN newspaper in its issue of March 8, 1990 entitled "Those are the criminals who killed Pavlospa Konanis and in which the paper accused the Syrian diplomats, Muhammad al-Sayyid and Qasim Asbir of taking part in this operation. [no closing quotation marks as published]

The statement denounced such groundless accusations and allegations which were attributed to Mr. al-Sayyid and Mr. Asbir, particularly that Mr. al-Sayyid has worked since his arrival in Greece for developing Syrian-Greek relations in particular and Arab-Greek relations in general. Mr. al-Sayyid started his career with a mission to the Arab League, then he worked as a Secretary General of the Arab-Greek Chamber of Commerce and up to this date he holds a Syrian diplomatic passport for being a commercial advisor at the Syrian Embassy in Athens, according to norms effective at the Arab League which provide that the Arab countries should grant the citizens who work at the Arab League offices diplomatic passports.

The statement stressed that although Mr. Asbir works as a diplomatic attache at the Embassy, he has no car and he does not even drive a car and he has never been a driver to Mr. al-Sayyid or others.

The statement expressed the hope that the newspaper should be accurate, objective and sincere before publishing such editorials and to keep away from groundless allegations and accusations in order to preserve Arab-Greek relations in general and the Syrian-Greek relations in particular which Syria has always been working to develop in order to serve the interests of the two countries.

Independents To Represent 40 Percent in Assembly

JN1504084390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] Damascus—Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has spoken to Syrian news media correspondents on the forthcoming People's Assembly elections. In his statements, Dr. Qaddah asserted the objective behind increasing the number of assembly members from 195 to 250 is to expand the base of popular participation in the People's Assembly so all those who find themselves to be competent can help serve the homeland and take part in national development.

Dr. Qaddah added: This increase will be neither for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party nor for the other parties represented within the National Progressive Front [NPF]. The increase in the number of seats will be allocated to independents. In other words, the number of NPF representatives will remain as before without any increase. The number of seats allocated to the seven parties making up the NPF will represent 60 percent of the total number of seats, whereas the remaining 40 percent will be allocated to independents. In the fourth legislative term, the percentage of seats allocated to independents was 18 percent.

On the possible formation of closed lists by the NPF during the elections, Dr. Qaddah indicated there will be no closed lists at all during the current legislative elections. He added: Constituencies will be open for all. Citizens who feel they are competent and suitable for the job will be able to nominate themselves for an assembly seat within the NPF's lists or within other lists they might form.

On whether the branch leaders of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party would name the party's governorate candidates to the People's Assembly, Dr. Qaddah said: The NPF parties' leaders will name their candidates to the People's Assembly. Consequently, the Regional Command is the agency that will name the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's candidates. Voters will determine the election outcome through a free and democratic choice. The fact the name of a candidate is listed on the NPF's list does not mean he is going to win the elections. We view all candidates fairly and without discrimination.

On the measures taken or that will be taken by the Regional Command to ensure free and honest elections and to guarantee the election process is conducted properly, the assistant regional secretary of the party declared the command had instructed central and local authorities to abide by the rules and provisions of the electoral law and to tackle any problem that might arise at any electoral station according to the laws in force: to take those violating the law to task, to cancel the elections at that station, and to undertake a new election process at that station if such a procedure is found to be necessary. He added: The formation of election lists is something that has to be decided by the candidates themselves. The candidates are entitled to form any list that they want and find serves their interests. Furthermore, Dr. Qaddah noted every candidate has the right to engage in election activities and to launch an election campaign using the news media according to the rules and provisions spelled out in the electoral law. All candidates, whether they belong to the NPF or not, will be given equal opportunities to use the news media regarding this, Dr. Qaddah concluded.

Afghanistan

2 Former Ministers Executed; No Confirmation

BK1704143990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Islamabad, April 17 (AFP)—The Afghan regime has executed two former ministers in the latest purge stemming from a March coup that failed to topple President Najibullah, Western diplomats here said Tuesday. The government also sacked the ministers in charge of foreign and tribal affairs, arrested several senior government officials and party cadres and had begun a reshuffle top positions, the diplomats said.

They identified the two executed former ministers as Ghulam Dastgir Panjsheri and Saleh Mohammed Zeray. Theirs would be the first executions known to have been carried out since the abortive coup on March 6 led by General Shah Nawaz Tanay, then defence minister. The two men were among the top seven Politburo members expelled in the wake of the putsch bid, which was crushed by Mr. Najibullah's forces.

No independent confirmation was available and the regime has not yet announced their deaths.

The diplomats said the foreign minister, 'Abdul Wakil, and the minister for tribes and border affairs, Muhammad Sulayman Ali La'eq, had been sacked and reassigned to foreign diplomatic posts.

The regime has begun arresting relatives and friends of the coup leaders as part of its ongoing drive, the diplomats said. Among those recently arrested were the chairman of the Afghan Academy of Sciences, the chairman of the University of Kabul and the police chiefs of Eastern Jalalabad and Khowst, they said.

Afghan Defence Minister Aslam Watanjar told reporters here on April 11 that some 600 people had been arrested since the coup attempt, saying that its quick suppression had increased unity within the military. Western diplomats have put the number of people arrested at 3,000. But an Afghan pilot, who said that he bombarded Presidential Palace before defecting to the resistance in Pakistan, said in a recent interview that the figure could be as high as 6,000. The pilot said he felt that the coup effort, spearheaded by leaders of the rival Khalq faction, would not affect Soviet military aid to Mr. Najibullah, whose Parcham faction currently controls the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

The regime has announced the appointment of Mohammed Daod Razmyar as ambassador to the Soviet Union, replacing Sayyed Mohammad Gulabzoy, the Khalq party leader whose whereabouts were unknown, the diplomats said.

Some sources said that Mr. Gulabzoy was under arrest in Moscow and that Soviet Union was resisting his extradition to Kabul. But others said that Mr. Gulabzoy, who enjoyed considerable influence in the army, was arrested in Kabul prior to the failed coup.

In reports of fighting, the diplomats said there was a sudden spurt in combat during the current Muslim holy month of Ramadan [28 March-26 April]. Heavy fighting continued throughout early April around Kabul, as well as in western Paghman, the northern Shomali districts, and Maidan Shahr, to the west of Kabul. Mujahidin guerrillas had overrun five posts in the western hemisphere of Kabul, which meant the resistance had entered within the city's outer defence ring, the diplomats said. Government planes carried out repeated bombing raids against the mujahidin in Paghman, causing limited casualties but considerable destruction, they said.

In the north, the Salang Highway, a main artery leading to the Soviet Union, has been intermittently closed since March 26 either by bad weather and snow, or because of small-scale mujahidin action, they said.

Rocketing of eastern Khowst by mujahidin gunners in March closed the besieged town's airport, they said, confirming guerrilla advances in the area. The city's is currently supplied by air drop. But on April 7, a pallet that was dropped landed on a government ammunition dump, setting off an explosion and fire that burned for two days, they said.

(But in Kabul, Afghan national television showed Mr. Wakil leaving Monday for a U.N. session in New York. The TV also showed Mr. La'eq waving farewell to the foreign minister at an airport departure ceremomy. Kabul has categorically denied executing anyone in connection with the abortive coup. Deputy Security Minister Yaar Muhammad said in a recent television interview that the government had not executed anyone and that proper trials had yet to be held. Officials in the Najibullah government, who requested anonymity, also said this week that they had recently seen Mr. Zeray alive.)

Fierce Rival Group Clashes Continue in Helmand

LD1704194690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] After the death of Nasim Akhunzada, general commander of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami in Helmand Province, who was killed by members of the Gulbuddin extremist group in Peshawar on 25 March, Mawlawi Nabi, leader of the so-called Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami, instructed all his men in Helmand to attack the headquarters of the Gulbuddin group in this province.

The regular attacks by the Nabi extremist group on the Gulbuddin extremist group headquarters in the surroundings of Nad-e Ali, and Sangi districts, and Now Sad region, began on Friday evening [13 April] and have resulted in heavy loss of life and material damage in the belligerent parties. So far over 100 men from the rival groups have been either killed or injured, and dozens of others were captured by the rival group.

Reports are arriving on the execution of some of the captives, including the brother of Mawlawi Abdorrahman—a chieftain of the Gulbuddin extremist group in Helmand Province—by the the Mawlawi Nabi extremist group.

The groups in Helmand Province attached to the extremist Rabbani have taken up weapons in support of the men attached to Mawlawi Nabi and jointly they attacked the Gulbuddin extremist group headquarters. Fierce clashes are continuing between the rival groups in Helmand Province.

Keshtmand Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD1704171890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The Press Office of Council on Ministers Affairs reported to us that the regular meeting of the Council of Ministers Executive Comittee, chaired by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, has been held today with the participation of deputy prime ministers, some ministers, and heads of government administrations. Today's session of the council's executive committee discussed Afghan-Soviet agreements on trade and economic protocols, which were signed and exchanged during the working visit of a high rank Soviet delegation headed by deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union and chairman of the Soviet side of Afghan-Soviet Economic Cooperation Commission. It was noted that the agreement plays a positive and invaluable role in the expansion and strengthening of trade and technical cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

In today's session of the Council of Ministers Executive Committee work regime of state administrations and institutions of the Republic of Afghanistan has been set out in line with Article 48 of Labor Law for better and more use of work time, to prevent losses of work time and to reduce traffic congestion. A resolution has been passed in this respect, which will be published in the future.

In today's session the issue of handing out wheat flour rations or payment of price differences, taking into account market prices, to coupon holders in the provinces of the country was assessed. A resolution has been approved in this respect.

Also in today's session the issue of the implementation of the Council of Ministers resolution on duration of the payment of persuading fares to private haulage transport vehicles owners until the end of 1369 [December 1990] was assessed and approved.

Similarly, the continued payment of the currency expenses of ministries and state administrations and institutions from the income and stocks of banks of Afghanistan, without turning to market for their purchase has been approved.

In addition to the above-mentioned issues, some proposals and problems of ministries and state administrations have been discussed in today's Council of Ministers session and due decisions have been made.

Najibullah Congratulates Bulgaria's Mladenov

LD1304091490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 12, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Petur Mladenov on the occasion of his election as President of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to Sofia today.

In the message besides expressing best felicitations on the occasion it has been emphasised that the election of Petur Mladenov in the presidential post of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, is of special importance for further democratization of Bulgarian society, and the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Bulgaria will be further consolidated in the future in the interests of international peace and security.

Congratulates Al-Asad on Anniversary

LD1704075490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 16, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], has communicated a congratulatory message to Damascus addressed to Hafiz al-Asad, president of Syria, on the occasion of independence aniversary of that country. While congratulating the Syrian leader on the occasion, confidence is expressed in the message for the strengthening and development of the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Syria.

Likewise, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers and 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the RA, sent to Damascus congratulatory messages addressed to Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister, and Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, respectively.

Bangladesh

Muslim Activists Protest India's Kashmir Action

BK1804111290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Dhaka, March 18 (AFP)—Several hundred Muslim activists demonstrated near the Indian Embassy here Wednesday [18 April] protesting New Delhi's alleged suppression of the "liberation forces" in Kashmir, police and witnesses said. Police said they stopped some 750 demonstrators, mostly from the right-wing Jamaat-e Eslami Party, on a road several meters (yards)

from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka's Dhanmondi District. But they allowed a delegation to go to the chancery and hand over a protest letter to an Indian official, a police official said.

Embassy officials were unavailable for comment.

The letter, addressed to Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, also condemned the recent ban on the Kashmir chapter of Jamaat-e Eslami and eight other parties there and demanded that the ban be lifted without delay.

The demonstration, preceded by a protest march, ended peacefully, the police official said. Witnesses said some 1,500 demonstrators took part in the anti-Indian protest, carrying banners and shouting slogans in support of the Kashmiri militants who are spearheading a drive for secession of the disputed state from India.

The violence has left more than 400 people dead so far this year in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

In his letter, copies of which were released to the press, Mr. Khan stressed that the problem in Kashmir, over which both India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since partition in 1947, "may be solved by fulfilling the demands of the liberation forces."

Soviet Official Party Delegation Meets Ershad

BK1604162090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 90

[Text] A two-member delegation from the Soviet Union called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. The (?delegation) comprises the secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Belorussia and head of the group of Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. They informed the president of the various reforms and changes taking place in the Soviet Union under the leadership of President Gorbachev. They also discussed the bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries. Soviet Ambassador V.S. Smirnov was present on the occasion.

Shanti Bahini 'Rebels' Kill 19 Shilchar Villagers

BK1704151890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1501 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, April 17 (AFP)—Suspected tribal rebels raided a village in the southeastern Bangladesh hills, abducted 25 Bengali Muslim villagers and shot dead 19 of them, security sources here said Tuesday [17 April]. They said rebels from the outlawed Shanti Bahini group stormed the village of Shilchar in the Banderban Hill District Monday night [16 April], captured 25 villagers and tied them with ropes before firing on them. Three of the victims were hospitalised with injuries while three managed to escape the carnage unhurt, the sources said, adding that bodies of 19 villagers were recovered after government forces moved into the village and launched a search operation.

In the last reported offensive in the nearby Khagrachari Hill District in February, the rebels ambushed a group of Bangladesh Security Forces, killing one soldier. The ambush followed an earlier incident when troops shot dead four tribal rebels including their "captain" in the Rangamati Hill District.

The Shanti Bahini insurgents, mostly drawn from the area's dominant Chakma tribe, have been fighting a 16-year bush war for tribal autonomy and expulsion of Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers from the rugged region bordering India and Burma. In the past 10 years more than 1,000 people, mostly Muslim settlers, have been killed by the rebels. However, officials have said the rebels' activities have greatly diminished following last year's election for specially created hill councils for Banderban, Khagrachari and Rangamati headed by local tribal leaders.

India

Premier Comments on Strength, Quality of Navy

BK1804094990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The prime minister said that suitable allocations would be made for the growth and modernization of the Indian Navy. Addressing the biennial naval commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh said we need a strong and growing Navy to protect the long coastline, vast exclusive economic zone, increasing maritime trade, safeguarding our offshore interests, and the island territories. While our growth has been modest, some countries have been raising the bogey of an Indian naval buildup to bolster their own military buildup, he observed.

The prime minister said we have a very good defense research and development setup and indigenous shipbuilding capacity, and our defense public sector undertakings are capable of providing a strong support to the Navy. Indigenization alone will serve us in the long run, he said.

The prime minister asked the Navy to remain in operational readiness to effectively meet any situation—whether protecting the territorial integrity of the country or checking illegal poaching on fishing rights or preventing economic offenses.

Minister Notes 'Very Difficult' Payments Situation

BK1804091090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] The industry minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, has called upon the industry to be more export-oriented to tide over what he called a very difficult balance of payment situation faced by the country. He was addressing the

national conference on India's economic strategy for the nineties in New Delhi today.

Mr. Ajit Singh said that industry should cooperate with the government in providing information and technical support to small enterprises in a decentralized manner. He said the government is placing great emphasis on the expansion of the small-scale industry.

U.S. Departments Evasive on Kashmiri Militant

BK1804084590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT '8 Apr 90

[Text] The U.S. State and Immigration Departments are evading the issue of Amanullah Khan's status and as to how he got entry into the United States. A spokesman of the State Department told the press reporters to contact the Immigration Department to [as heard] all queries relating to Amanullah Khan. When approached, the Immigration Department said it would come into the picture only after the State Department notifies that Amanullah Khan was without a proper visa, or that his visa was withdrawn. The State Department has officially labelled the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front as a terrorist organization to which Amanullah Khan belongs.

Kashmir Front Claims 16 Apr Vigyan Bhavan Fire

BK1704160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report says the outlawed militant organization, the so-called KLF [Kashmir Liberation Front], has claimed responsibility for yesterday's Vigyan Bhavan fire. This was conveyed to the news agency on the phone, as the report put it.

Deputy Premier To Attend Beijing FAO Meeting

BK1704163490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, will be leading the Indian delegation to the 20th FAO [Food and Agricultural Organization] regional conference opening in Beijing next Monday [23 April]. The emphasis of the conference will be on biotechnology, food crops, and livestock production.

Mr. Devi Lal will also be meeting the Chinese premier, vice premier, and agriculture minister while in Beijing.

In this connection, the Chinese ambassador in India, Mr. Tu Guowei, called on Mr. Devi Lal today. The deputy prime minister is expected to discuss Sino-Indian cooperation in agriculture and related fields like fisheries, fertilizers, dairy development, irrigation, and the environment.

Minister Inaugurates Low-Power TV Transmitter

BK1704092290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 90

[Text] The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. P. Upendra, has reiterated the government's commitment to give autonomy to the electronic media. He said Prasar Bharati, the autonomous corporation, will come into effect from January next year.

Mr. Upendra was inaugurating a low-power TV transmitter at Amalapuram in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh today. He said 16 state capitals will be provided with a second channel during the eighth plan at a cost of 700 crore rupees. A survey has been taken up to assess the need to set up more transmitters, and als o the reception and functioning of the present centers. A decision has also been taken to set up about 80 local radio stations in the country to highlight local development and cultural programs.

Official Gives Agriculture Production Statistics

BK1304150590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Food grains production is expected to be over 173 million tons during the current year. This will be over 3 million tons more than the actual production during the previous year. Disclosing this to newsmen in New Delhi today, the agriculture secretary, Mr. S.K. Mishra, said the target in rice production may be exceeded, while it is likely to be marginally lower in wheat. He said the target of 16.5 million tons of oil seeds production is likely to be exceeded by about half a million tons. There will be a boost in cotton and sugarcane production. Cotton production is expected to be 122 lakh bales and sugarcane may be around 215 million tons as against the target of 212 million tons.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khomeyni Reportedly Disagree

TA1704183490 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Disagreement among the regime's leaders is growing daily. We have learned that at the latest Supreme National Security Council meeting, held a few days ago, intense differences of opinion broke out between Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ahmad Khomeyni.

At this meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that some people are obstructing my government's work. Should these obstructions continue, I will not be able to accomplish anything. Whereupon Ahmad Khomeyni, addressing Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said: I have investigated and found out that the question of your telephone contact with the White House is correct. You tried to hold contact with the Americans.

At this time, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i intervened and called on the two sides to be calm. He said: We must have understanding with each other. The country is in a special situation and it is only through cooperation that we can accomplish anything.

It is being said in Tehran's informed political circles that Hashemi-Rafsanjani is gradually removing himself from day-to-day management of affairs, since he has reached the conclusion that he is unable to neutralize his rivals. Political observers in Tehran are saying that the radical faction, headed by Ahmad Khomeyni and Mohtashemi, is trying these days to create a strongman out of Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi vis-a-vis Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Clergy, Jews Support International Jerusalem Day

LD1704141390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] With the approach of International Jerusalem Day, in keeping with continued declarations of support by the ulema and clergymen, Friday prayers and congregation leaders, political and religious personalities, Islamic revolution organizations, and various strata of the people, and following the message of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, calling on people to participate in the great marches of International Jerusalem Day, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Va'ez-Tabasi, representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult] in Khorasan Province and custodian of the Imam Reza shrine has issued a statement in which he described participation in the marches of International Jerusalem Day as honoring another of the valuable mementos of the late and great imam of the Islamic revolution, and as a response to the call of the message of the eminent leader as well as a continuation of the struggle until the liberation of noble Jerusalem.

The central news unit reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, representative of the Vali-ye Faqih and Friday prayer leader of Zanjan; and Hojjat ol-Eslam Barikbin, representative of the Vali-ye Faqih and Friday prayer leader of Qazvin township, have also issued a joint statement. While condemning the U.S. Senate's move in officially recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the usurper Jerusalem regime and the migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories, the statement called on the people of Iran to attend the marches of International Jerusalem Day and display once again their Islamic and revolutionary zeal for the liberation of noble Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, marking the same occasion, a message was issued by the Jewish community of Iran, which emphasized that the Jewish community of Iran, as in other years, will follow the calls of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, and, in line with the rest of their dear compatriots, participate in the marches of International Jerusalem Day to express their solidarity.

Paper Urges Muslim Unity To Liberate Jerusalem

LD1804090890 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—An English-language daily Wednesday urged the billion-strong world Muslims to join ranks and unite under a banner to "force global Zionism to retreat from its illegitimate demands." In an article titled 'Muslims Unite To Liberate Beyt al-Moqaddas', 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' stressed that the fate of Palestinian nation should be decided in Ramadan and on the day of Qods [Jerusalem], the last Friday of the holy month.

"Today, the Muslim people of Palestine are at the center of unjust pressures by the oppressive powers," the daily said, castigating the so-called human rights advocates for watching the employment of the most inhuman methods of pressure and suppression against the Palestinians. "Tel Aviv has gone through all methods to quell the Islamic uprising but the intifada still goes on and gathers more momentum with the passage of time," wrote the paper.

The article noted that Muslims in Yugoslavia, China, India, the Soviet Union, and many other places in the world "have tied their fate to that of the Muslim people in Palestine and a universal solidarity among them is taking shape." It concluded by saying, "the first step to this end is to return the first Qibla of Muslims (Beyt al-Moqaddas) to the Islamic world."

Ministry Official Meets Afghan Mujahidin Leaders

LD1704205790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1706 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] The Afghan Mujahidin delegation headed by (Molavi Nasrollah Mansur) and (Qazi Mohamad Amin Vaqqod), two of the leaders of independent Sunni Jihad-seeking groups of Afghanistan, yesterday had a meeting with Mr. Borujerdi, our country's deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of the Asian and Oceanic affairs.

At the meeting, first Mr. (Molavi Nasrollah Mansur), leader of the Afghanistan Islamic Revolution Movement [Haraket-e Enqelab-e Eslami Afghanestan] and later Mr. (Qazi Mohamad Amin Vaqqod) leader of the Islamic Unity Purpose of Afghanistan [Da'iyeh Ettehad-e Eslami Afghanestan] both denied rumors that the independent Jihad-seeking groups had joined the Mujahidin interim government.

In this meeting, the leaders of the independent Jihad-seeking groups of Afghanistan, meanwhile, called for the convening of a congress in the Islamic Republic of Iran with participation of all the Jihad-seeking groups as well as all the scientific-religious personalities of Afghanistan to survey the problem of Afghanistan and ways of solving that great Islamic problem.

Then, Mr. Borujerdi, the country's deputy minister of foreign affairs, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has,

from early on, believed that the solution to the Afghanistan problem depends on the decisions of the struggling Muslim nation of that beloved Islamic country. In all its official statements and its political talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran has stressed that any plan in that connection must be approved by all the Jihad-seeking groups and the Muslim people of that country. He also expressed the hope that in the near future, we will witness the convening of the great congress of Afghanistan in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Editorial Welcomes Moves for Disarmament

NC1704114190 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Disarmament Bid a Welcome Move"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has called for the elimination of all mass destructing weapons from the Middle East region. In a press conference before his departure for Cairo at the end of short visits to Iraq and Jordan on Sunday, Mubarak also hoped that regional countries would yield to an international inspection and guarantee in this connection.

By these remarks Mubarak was probable bent on reducing the present tension between Iraq and some Western countries. The tension has mounted in recent weeks for Iraq's jest [as published] of heavy-handedness towards the West.

But for a fact Mubarak's proposal, aside from the political intention he might have, is a positive one and as such welcome.

If and when this proposal is translated into action it might be said it will be among the most significant steps Mideast leaders have ever taken in the service of people in this part of the world.

But the proposal's credibility is of course tainted by lack of sincerity on the part of the very person of President Mubarak. Egypt under his own leadership, in recent years has left no stone unturned in increasing its armed forces capability in terms of weapons of mass destruction. Cairo has gone as far as even giving assistance to war-mongering regimes like that of Iraq's to expand their own stockpile of those weapons. The contribution Egyptian engineers have made to the Iraqi missile venture is not hidden from any one.

But one serious question stands out like a sore thumb when one thinks over reasons for the recent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in this part of the world. Why among different parts of the globe the Middle East has indeed turned out to become a true powder keg?

In answering this question one has to take note of the recent political developments that have drastically changed the political visage of Eastern Europe and, as such, have immensely affected West-East relations.

Following the detente in West-East relations, the European countries and the West in general have not paid much attention to arms stockpiling as they used to.

This has urged Western and Eastern arms manufacturers to look elsewhere for convenient markets.

Now given the petro-dollars making the rounds of the Middle East on the one hand and the existence of dictatorial regimes on the other, this region has become a very profitable market for arms dealers and manufacturers.

Isn't it time yet that Middle East leaders, like many of their counterparts elsewhere, began using their governments' incomes for progress in science and technology? Would it not be better to spend these huge sums in advancing the living standards of the deprived masses of people in this part of the world than for mass destruction of people and, or, establishment of an "armed peace."

Tehran Paper Calls Kashmir Situation 'Gloomy'

LD1804075590 Tehran IRNA in English 0635 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The Iranian Government appears to be open to proposals for mediation between the Muslims and the Indian Government, said an Iranian daily Wednesday. Commenting on the Kashmiri crisis, the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said, "The Indian Government's heavy handedness, Muslims' resistance and the escalating tension between India and Pakistan over the issue all add up to a very gloomy picture."

The daily's editorial noted, "Prime Minister V.P. Singh owes a great deal to Muslims for his victory in the elections," but added "his government's acts of outright violence against the Kashmiri Muslims are quite contradictory to his hitherto commendable Muslim-related policies."

It pointed out "the dimensions of the present Kashmiri crisis appear somehow unprecedented since the Indian independence in the late '40's", adding "gross neglect to Muslim grievances by former Indian governments has played the pivotal role in shaping up the present state of affairs."

"So it may be said with some justice that Singh's government has indeed fallen victim to the wrong policies of the past governments and inherits a very ominous legacy in this connection."

The paper stressed "all should be done to find a non-violent settlement," and "a line of dialogue should be opened with people away from tension and violence." "New Delhi should either put a peaceful end to the Kashmiri crisis" the paper believed "or brace for untoward accidents to unfold in an atmosphere of mistrust and misunderstanding." It however warned "neither of the governments in New Delhi or Islamabad drive any

benefit at all from heightening the tension in their relations over the issue of Kashmir."

"New Delhi can certainly benefit from options other than violence," it stressed suggesting "for one, it may even get a hand from the Islamic Republic to act in a mediatory capacity and use its good offices with the Kashmiri Muslims...as Tehran values friendly ties with New Delhi and earnestly wishes for a peaceful settlement of the crisis."

Anniversary of Severed Ties With U.S. Noted

NC1704132590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 10 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "An Inauspicious Anniversary"]

[Text] This week—Monday April 9, to be exact—as the anniversary of the complete severance of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States marks the beginning of resistance and steadfastness of the Iranian Muslim people vis-a-vis threats and plots by a superpower and an imperialist country.

In the decade or so since the rupture of political, economic, military and cultural ties between the two countries, the Islamic Revolution, despite facing dozens of conspiracies by its enemies, has taken major strides towards realizing goals set by its founder, Imam Khomeyni.

We put behind the tenth year of the cut in the unjust relations between the two countries under conditions in which the U.S. has received perhaps most damaging blows and setbacks internationally due to its abortive efforts to get closer to Iran.

The failure of former President Carter in its military attack to Tabas—which took place only two weeks subsequent to the severance of ties—and the scandal which he created in his dealings with the Islamic Republic of Iran eventually led to the defeat of the Democrats in 1980 presidential elections. Following him, Ronald Reagan who had made known his hostile stance toward the Islamic Republic and its revolution launched a major campaign to restore the lost U.S. prestige with complete support from his allies in Western Europe and the Persian Gulf.

The continued enforcement of economic sanction against Iran plus wide political support of the counter-revolutionaries in Iran and abroad including financial assistance to them are just some of the measures he initially took against the Islamic Republic at the beginning of his turn of relations with Iran. After the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war, Washington reopened its embassy in Baghdad so as to meet the Iraqi regime's diverse needs in military and intelligence assistance in a systematic way.

Washington's unconditional support for [the] Iraqi dictator which inevitably led to some of the most inhumane measures such as the application of chemical weapons, attack on civilian targets, the ignoring of Baghdad's violations of international laws by world organizations as a result of U.S. influence created a most negative image of the United States among Iranians.

However, Iraq's repeated and heavy defeats on the battlefields over the course of the war despite enjoying unlimited diplomatic and military supports and the ever expanding influence of the Islamic Revolution convinced the Reagan administration to think of a way to reconcile differences with Iran. Efforts in this connection led to the McFarlane scandal that came to be later referred to as the "Irangate."

The attack on passenger planes, trains, oil tankers and merchant ships in the Persian Gulf, the missile attack on Iranian cities and the massive and unprecedented use of chemical weapons by Baghdad were all because of U.S. green light and the silence of the international bodies. The continued resistance of the Iranian people vis-a-vis such crimes brought the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf and eventually led to the direct U.S. military intervention in support of Iraq. Having been aware of the vulnerability of their forces in the waterway and in order to demoralize Iranian people and break their spirit of resistance the Americans committed a most unjust crime by shooting down an Iranian airliner which martyred some 300 innocent people.

Despite all the above problems and numerous other ones the Islamic Republic maintained its principled stance toward this superpower and keeps on stressing the necessity of continuing to resist injustice in all parts of the world. That is why Iran is regarded by the U.S. as the forerunner of resistance against imperialism and the imposition of the American culture—an instrument used to spend [as published] political and economic dominance over deprived nations.

Because of the influence of Iran among deprived Third World countries and the failure of diplomatic, economic and military sanctions against it Washington has launched a series of attempts to reestablish ties with Iran using every channel possible. The alleged telephone conversation by George Bush with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani is an indication this U.S. desire to establish some kind of dialogue for the eventual reestablishment of this relations.

The severance of ties between the Islamic Republic and the U.S. has provided an invaluable lesson for all Third World and freedom-seeking countries of the world and an example that it is possible to face a superpower by relying on faith and the sacred cause of realizing freedom.

Regime Allegedly Trafficking Drugs in Europe

TA1604072690 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] We have learned that in order to secure foreign currency, the Islamic Republic regime has adopted large-scale measures for the distribution and sale of drugs in European countries. The regime's sales agents have been seen in Madrid, Frankfurt, and Paris. Reportedly the Islamic Republic regime's main drug distribution headquarters are located in Spain. Toward this end, the regime has at its disposal certain places called medical centers for the treatment of the disabled.

Deputy Minister Details Petrochemical Projects

LD1404192690 Tehran IRNA in English 1812 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—Over $5,714 million will be invested for development of the petrochemical industry within the first five year plan, said Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Rahgozar. He added that more than 50 per cent of the figure will be in foreign exchange. Rahgozar who is also managing director of the National Petrochemical Company made the remark in an interview published in the latest issue of the quarterly magazine "IRAN EXPORTS". He said that $one billion of the figure will be allocated to the Iran-Japan project (no more a joint venture) adding that various changes have been made in the initial project including its original aims and plans.

Iran exports quoted Rahgozar as saying that half a million tons of the total production of the plant will be exported and the remaining 2.5 million tons will furnish the country's requirements. Another $one billion will be allocated to semi-constructed Arak project which is expected to reach production in 1992. The Isfahan aromatic project due to start production in 1991 will get $300 million of the amount. It is semi-completed. The Tabriz project which will receive $900 million will be built with foreign cooperation through buy-back system, he said.

Asked about the Iran-Japan venture in the south, he said the Japanese partner was invited to complete the project immediately after the 1989 cease-fire with Iraq but they announced after investigations that they were reluctant to continue with the project. He added that the high local demand which is still on the increase means that Iran has every reason to continue with the project. After discussions with the Japanese party, their shares were transferred to Iran leaving it up to the Iranians to complete the plan. He added that several foreign companies have been approached to work on the project as regards the management and some others to act as contractors and subcontractors to conduct the actual implementation. The decisions have not yet been finalised but most probably the contractors will be Koreans, he said.

Referring to the construction of numerous petrochemical plants in the Persian gulf region, he said that internal demand for such products were very high and the export aspect of the industry was of secondary importance. However, Iran can offer a vast variety of petrochemical products and should therefore be able to gain great success in the world market as well.

He added that Iran is exporting sulphur and ammonia mainly to India, Morocco and Tunisia at present and other products such as methanol, liquid gas, fertilisers will soon be in a position to be exported.

He termed lack of sufficient expert, technical and management know-how from abroad, although a company has been set up in Shiraz for planning and engineering research and design with a team of highly capable specialists.

Thanks to the experiences gained during the imposed war, many equipments needed in the country's industry can be made by the Heavy Industries Ministry, he said. "There is still a long way for us to go with regard to designing and building all the equipment we need," Rahgozar said.

Seven out of Iran's nine petrochemical plants were damaged during the Iraqi war and the average production of petrochemical plants reached 500,000 tons annually during that time. The units are producing three million tons now that conditions are back to normal. Their production capacity is expected to reach eight million tons in the framework of the 5-year plan.

He promised that quality standards of the products are expected to rise substantially and the variety to become more extensive.

The company has four major projects and various small-scale plans which can undoubtedly be an encouraging step towards a higher national production capacity. The company will focus on the chemical 'Olefin', the basic raw materials for the manufacture of all kinds of plastics and rubber, he said, adding that a small unit named 'Olefin one' has begun operation in Abadan. Our other Olefin plants capable of large scale production will be constructed in future, he said.

Strong Laws Urged Against 'Economic Culprits'

NC1504122390 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Apr 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Tackling a Problem Named 'Economic Culprits'"]

[Text] A group of deputies submitted the single-urgency motion for penalizing culprits in the economic system to the Islamic Majles in the hope of eliminating a legal vacuum that may impede a campaign against the elements causing a disruption in the economy. Thus the people could be optimistic that the Islamic system will utilize all its strength and efforts for ameliorating these conditions.

The mounting economic pressure has tightened the net around the deprived strata of society, and if we use the term "penurious" for the lower-income groups of society, which comprise the majority of the people, it would not be far wrong. What is making the people impatient as well as apprehensive, while enduring economic pressure, is that access to social justice, which is one of the objectives of the Islamic system, seems to appear more and more difficult day by day because of unethical practices, aggravated by the economic situation.

In a market plagued by the ravages of an eight-year war, economic embargoes, and so on, the wealth of the society tends to move toward those parasitical leeches embedded in society that obtain sustenance from its vital arteries. Undoubtedly, strong and firm legislation to resolve most problems is beneficial but the subject of their implementation, the instruments of this implementation, and the bottlenecks in their path cannot be ignored.

The motion by the esteemed Majles deputies to chastise the economic saboteurs and its submission to the Majles is a positive step. However, its finalized form should contain no room for ambiguity. Regulations carrying penalties should be not be couched in legal jargon and terminology so that the hands of the executive officials are tied. Penal laws are different in general from guiding or reforming laws and therefore intensive attention should be paid to their compilation.

The other points to bear in mind for the precise and correct implementation of the penal laws are that political or group influences should not be allowed to infiltrate in the course of their implementation. Another consideration should be that simultaneously with the tackling of economic miscreants, the malpractices in the private sector as well as the government sector should be dealt with. The latter point is effective from the psychological point of view in the implementation of laws and also serves to secure and strengthen the position of those who implement the laws.

The results of the investigation into some of the dossiers of major embezzlement cases in the private sector are still nebulous, and illogical obstacles should not be permitted to prolong this process of investigation.

Naturally, tackling of economic problems demands attention to their particular details, so that the implementation of one law does not create other problems. What is definite is that the outcome of the implementation of the government's fundamental plans will be attained in the long term, but the process can be expedited with reform of the bureaucratic systems.

While our society is grappling with innumerable economic problems, it also needs peace and tranquillity. Experience has proved that during the course of combating the elements of corruption, it would yield more favorable results if it is done tactfully, far removed from an atmosphere of altercation.

Commentary on UK Attitude to Bazoft Execution

NC1304163790 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Mar 90 p 2

[Mas'udi commentary: "Bazoft's Execution and London's Crocodile Tears"]

[Excerpts] One minute of silence observed by the representatives of the European Parliament at the request of former French President Giscard d'Estaing to condemn "the detestable and despotic conditions" of Saddam's regime in Iraq was a protest made against the execution of a British correspondent who was arrested in Iraq.

The silence of the European and Western forums on the numerous crimes perpetrated by Saddam's regime is not limited only to this one minute. Not only did Western governments ignore the crimes committed by this regime during and after the imposed war on Iran, and indeed continue to ignore them, but they have done their best to encourage Baghdad to perpetrate more and more crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran, merely because of their opposition to Iran.

Farzad Bazoft was a British correspondent of Iranian origin who was arrested on spying charges a few months ago, together with British nurse Daphne Parish who resided in Baghdad, while he was preparing a report on an explosion at a chemical bomb manufacturing factory near Baghdad.

The British woman received a 15-year prison sentence. However, despite Britain's protests, Farzad Bazoft was executed.

The orders for the execution of Farzad Bazoft were issued early last week. Following this, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher threatened that, if this order was carried out, her government would sever relations with Baghdad. However, the Baghdad regime's indifference to Mrs. Thatcher's protest only resulted in the summoning of the British ambassador from Iraq.

Also, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, speaking in the House of Commons, commented on Baghdad's sentence on Bazoft and said: All the Iraqi students in Britain should return to their country. The military training of Iraqis in Britain should stop, and all visits at ministerial level should be suspended.

The British Government, which has hitherto remained silent on the numerous crimes perpetrated by Iraq against the Iraqi people and Iraq's neighbors, is now feigning protest against the Baghdad regime. But the question that it should answer is: Why has it remained silent on all of Baghdad's crimes until now?

The execution of Farzad Bazoft who, according to his confessions which have been published in the Iraqi press, cooperated closely with the special branches of the British and Israeli services, gave rise to several important points:

1. By shunning its masters' request, the Baghdad regime—which is a minion of the White House and of Buckingham Palace—showed that it does not respect any principles, even when it comes to its friends, and that even though it is the eve of the anniversary of the chemical bombing of Halabjah, it is prepared to add yet another page to the book of its crimes and also to upset its friends.

2. Until the explosion at the Baghdad chemical plant, Farzad Bazoft was favored by the Ba'thists in Baghdad because of his strong opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had visited Baghdad five times during the past two years at the invitation of the Baghdad regime, which also paid for these visits. During the imposed war, Bazoft wrote numerous articles in defense of the Baghdad regime and of the West in this unequal battle and sought refuge in the house of the enemy, which he served with his pen. Bazoft's execution is a valuable lesson to all those who place a foreign yoke of slavery on their necks, showing them how they will become victims of those very foreign forces which they served when the time comes.

3. Europe and the West raise their voices in protest only against any acts that threaten their own dignity and the interests of their own governments. But when it comes to crimes perpetrated by dependent regimes, they prefer to maintain a deathly silence. Even if they protest, it is only in words and not in deeds. The scattered and weak protests on the execution of Farzad Bazoft heard from various Western governments during the past few days were all aimed at feigning support for human rights. Otherwise, it seems improbable that relations between London and Baghdad, both of which have mutual and vital interests, will be threatened.

Thus, 24 hours had not yet passed since Bazoft's execution when the British Government provided information to the newspapers, through Buckingham Palace officials, on an 18-month sentence which Bazoft received in 1981 on charges of bank robbery. This was done in a bid to place a question mark on the personality of the mercenary and to downplay his execution. But the British Government and the Baghdad regime have not yet answered the question of why two such widely differing sentences were issued on two spies in Baghdad and why one received a 15-year sentence, while the other was immediately executed, even though both of them had committed the same crime.

Thus, the West's defense of Bazoft should not be taken seriously. The British Government, which is protecting the atheist Salman Rushdie from Imam Khomeyni's historic decree, under the label of defending democracy, and is spending millions of pounds on this, will naturally continue to support the Baghdad regime in the future also, just for the sake of enmity with the Islamic revolution. Therefore, the Muslims of the world will not be fooled by Thatcher's scenario of defending Bazoft, and will only accept the statement issued by Amnesty International in London stating that the execution of Farzad Bazoft, a British correspondent of THE OBSERVER, is the most recent case in a long list of systematic and harsh violations of human rights in Iraq which are still going on thanks to the continued silence in Europe and in the West.

Deputy Health Minister on Birth Control Plan

NC1804052390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] In order to control population it has been decided to import large quantities of contraceptives for women and to distribute these free of charge in health centers. The deputy health, treatment, and medical education minister for parliamentary affairs announced this to correspondents at a news conference in Arak. He also said that the hospitals and health centers in Tehran and in the province centers will sterilize women free of charge for a while.

Referring to the volume of drug production inside the country, he said: Currently 85 percent of the drugs needed are manufactured in 17 drug manufacturing plants in the country, while the remaining 15 percent—consisting of drugs for heart diseases, blood pressure, and cancer—are imported from abroad. The deputy health, treatment, and medical education minister for parliamentary affairs said: A large plant for manufacturing raw materials for drugs is being constructed in Sari, and once this plant becomes operational, the country will no longer need to import a major part of raw materials for drugs.

He also referred to steps taken to manufacture medical equipment in the country and said: Thanks to the support extended by the ministry of health, treatment, and medical education, 10 plants to manufacture syringes and a large complex which will manufacture 15 types of medical equipment are being constructed in the country and the products of these units will be gradually offered to the market.

Changes in Land Utilization Policy Announced

LD1404122390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Apr 90

[Text] At the central headquarters of the seven-member delegations for land utilization, the representative of the vali-e faqih [vice regent of the jurisconsult] announced that the government's policy on land utilization and arid land cultivation has changed. From now on, large consolidated farms will be given freely to those wishing to invest in agriculture.

Announcing the news in an interview with reporters, Mr. Fazel-Harandi expressed the hope that through the government's new policy, the necessary coordination will be carried out for the purchase of agricultural and other products for the maintenance of investment security, in addition to the removal of unnecessary rules and regulations.

Referring to the president's remarks on the country's land in the eastern and southeastern provinces, he said: The seven-member delegations announce their preparedness for land transfer in coordination with the Tribal Organization in Jiroft region, the provincial town of Kahnuj and Baluchestan va Sistan Province.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Fazel-Harandi added: The Khuzestan region has two million hectares of fertile land that can be used in all seasons, but because of major problems and the need for capital investment, the private sector is unable to deal with it so it is necessary for the government to invest in that region. He noted that so far 200,000 hectares of land has been transferred to farmers for three years' temporary cultivation, and it is envisaged that this figure will reach 850,000 hectares within the next two years.

The representative of the vice regent of the jurisconsult at the central headquarters of the seven-member delegations for land utilization said the following with regard to the headquarters' plans during the five-year economic and social development plan: During the Five-Year Plan, 250,000 hectares of land will be transferred to eligible people, and 1,400 wells will be dug.

International Facsimile, Postal Services Expand

NC1504063290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] In order to communicate more quickly and to expand postal services, international facsimile services have been installed in Bandar-e 'Abbas and are operational. According to the Central News Unit, with the installation of international facsimile services in Bandar-e 'Abbas, residents' messages will be sent to the United Arab Emirates and all other Persian Gulf sheykhdoms in the shortest possible time.

Nepal & Bhutan

King, Bhattarai Discuss Coalition Government

BK1704122090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1214 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 17 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal met Tuesday [17 April] with premier-designate Krishna Prasad Bhattarai and top opposition leader Ganesh Man Singh to discuss the makeup of the country's new coalition government, opposition sources said. Mr. Bhattarai, also acting president of the opposition Nepali Congress Party, and Mr. Singh told the king they would not object to including two or three of King Birendra's nominees in the new cabinet, an opposition source said. The new government, to be led by the centrist Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF), will pave the way for general elections to be held within a year, Mr. Bhattarai said.

The government is expected to be announced officially early Wednesday [18 April] and will be formally sworn in at the Royal Palace in the presence of the king later in the day.

The talks were held at the Royal Palace and came after seven weeks of bloody pro-democracy protest in this Himayalan kingdom which culminated Monday [16 April] when the king called for a coalition government and announced the dissolution of the nation's partyless panchayat system.

Opposition sources said the pro-democracy campaign had cost the lives of between 400 and 500 people.

Before meeting with the king, the two opposition leaders met with ULF leaders to discuss a proposed list of cabinet ministers for the new government.

Mr. Bhattarai ducked a question on whether he would be sworn in under the present Constitution, saying only "we are going to be sworn in only Wednesday."

King To Swear In New Prime Minister 19 April

BK1704153090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 17 (AFP)—King Birendra will swear in Krishna Prasad Bhattarai as prime minister of Nepal's new coalition government Thursday [19 April], an opposition source said here late Tuesday [17 April].

Mr. Bhattarai, 65, acting president of the opposition Nepali Congress, said after an hour and a half of talks with the king here, that "the king was happy with the changes" proposed by opposition leaders. The talks were held at the Royal Palace and came after two months of bloody pro-democracy protests in this Himalayan kingdom which culminated Monday [16 April] when the king called for an opposition-led coalition government and announced the dissolution of the nation's 30-year-old partyless panchayat system.

Opposition sources said the pro-democracy campaign had cost the lives of between 400 and 500 people.

Mr. Bhattarai said the new government would be composed of 11 ministers, with four from the centrist Nepali Congress and three from the United Leftist Front (ULF). The cabinet will include two of the king's nominees and two independents, said Mr. Bhattarai, whom ULF and Nepali Congress leaders chose Monday to head up the new government. A Nepali Congress source said Mr. Bhattarai would be sworn in at the Royal Palace at 11:00 a.m (0520 GMT) Thursday.

The new government will pave the way for general elections to be held within a year, said Mr. Bhattarai, who served as speaker of Nepal's Parliament in 1959-1960.

Mr. Bhuttarai was joined in the talks by Ganesh Man Singh, the top Nepali Congress leader. The two were beaming when they came out of their session with the king.

Mr. Bhattarai said King Birendra had assured the opposition leaders of his cooperation and said that his two nominees would "never impede the work that we have undertaken." "The king has agreed on our proposal and we have also agreed to what the king has said," he said, adding that there had been "no hitch" in the talks.

Asked whether he would be sworn in under the present Constitution, Mr. Bhattarai said "the Nepalese Constitution of 1962 is very much in existence ... Only some clauses and sub-clauses have been changed." The talks with the king were expected to have led to the formation of a panel to draft a new constitution.

Mr. Bhuttarai said earlier that his government would seek to "maintain a special and brotherly relationship with India" and did not want "to play the China card against India and vice versa." Regarding a present stalemate on Indo-Nepalese trade and transit, Mr Bhattarai said "negotiations should go on."

He added that his government's "foremost duty will be to redress the grievances of the families of the those martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for democracy in Nepal."

Pakistan

Army Chief Visits Border Areas, Praises Army

BK1804095990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg has said that professionally, the Pakistani Army is fully prepared and alert to meet the challenges confronting the territorial integrity of our beloved country. He was addressing the garrison meeting in Sialkot yesterday [17 April] after visiting the border areas. General Mirza Aslam Beg said, in view of the deteriorating situation in occupied Kashmir, the Pakistani Army is fully prepared to fulfill its responsibilities. He said the unflinching support extended by the entire country during this hour of trial has further bolstered the strength and confidence of the Army.

The Army chief lauded the morale of the soldiers after his meeting with them in the border areas and expressed satisfaction at their preparedness and capability.

Lahore Commander Comments on Kashmir Situation

BK1704105190 Lahore THE NATION in English 17 Apr 90 p 8

[By staff reporter]

[Text] Lahore—Corps Commander [of] Lahore Lt. Gen. Alam Jan Mahsud has said that the Pakistan Army has not gone onto a 'Red Alert' as claimed by Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, though it was as usual in a state of full readiness for any eventuality.

Answering questions from newsmen at an Iftar [Ramadan fast-breaking] get-together hosted in his honour by Lahore's Defence correspondents, he explained that Pakistan did not even have the 'alert' system which some countries had. He clarified that he had not received any special instructions for going on war footing.

Probed about the Pakistani reaction to reports that the Indian armed forces had cancelled all leaves, he said that the Pakistan Armed Forces saw no reason to set up a chain of reaction and counter-reaction by responding in kind, but would stick to its own standard operating procedures.

Questioned about the Kashmir situation, he said he felt that there was nothing India could do to stop the Kashmiri people from liberating themselves if they wanted to. He categorically denied Indian claims that Pakistan was in any way interfering in the liberation struggle, but noted that the Indians needed to realise that arms alone did not guarantee victory, as what really mattered were the men using those arms.

In an interesting digression he explained that his tribe had taken part in the 1947-48 Kashmir Jihad, reaching up to Baramula. His father had commanded the tribe, he revealed, and his father-in-law had been martyred during the action. He also commented that a people who wished to struggle for freedom did not need any support, and gave the example of his own Mahsud tribe, which had fought against the British for decades without any support. He added that he had himself gone with his tribe into caves as a child to escape British air attacks.

General Mahsud drew an analogy between the Afghan Jihad and the Kashmiri liberation struggle, noting that the Afghans had managed to make the Soviet occupation so cost probitive that the Soviets had to pull out, saying that the same could happen in Kashmir.

Commenting on Prime Minister V.P. Singh's claim that the Pakistan Army could not fight for more than 1000 hours, let alone 1000 years, he said that if that was true, the Indian armed forces too could not fight for more than 1000 hours.

Prominent among the guests at the get-together were GOCs [General Officers Commanding] of Divisions, Maj. Gen. Ejaz Ahmad and Maj. Gen. Ziaullah, as well as senior officers of Corps staff.

Islamabad Welcomes Political Settlement in Nepal

BK1704145490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Pakistan has welcomed the settlement in Nepal between the king and opposition leaders on lifting restrictions on political parties and on constitutional

reforms according to the wishes of the people of that country. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the national-level understanding reflects the prudence and statesmanship of the king and the political leadership of Nepal. He said Pakistan highly values its close and friendly ties with Nepal, and it firmly believes these positive changes will further enhance Nepal's progress and prosperity as a sovereign and independent state. [passage omitted]

Two Killed, One Hurt in Sind Shooting Incidents

BK1804090190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad says two people were killed and one injured yesterday in two separate shooting incidents in Latifabad subdivision and Hyderabad city. According to the press note, a massive patrolling by the law enforcing agencies continues in Hyderabad and Latifabad, and the situation now is under control.

Another press note issued by the district magistrate of Pishin says six gunmen entered Pishin government degree college yesterday and started indiscriminate firing on the employees, killing a lecturer on the spot. The miscreants also forcibly took two educators with them. The press note adds that this act has been committed in reprisal for the arrest of a notorious heroin smuggler, who is involved in several cases of robbery and murder. After the arrest, the smuggler was handed over to the Sind police.

Iran Allegedly Seizes Trawlers Near Jewani

BK1804114990 Lahore THE NATION in English 18 Apr 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi—The Iranian Navy has seized 17 Pakistani fishing trawlers near Jewani within Pakistan's territorial waters, it was reliably learnt here on Tuesday [17 April].

The total number of Pakistani launches in Iranian custody has thus risen to 70 during the past couple of years.

The trawlers were taken to Iran along with their navigators and some of the crew was sent back to Karachi by three boats, the sources said.